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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Abd-al-Majid Welcomes Call for Mideast Conference

NC0108122691 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has welcomed the Moscow declaration issued by Presidents Gorbachev and Bush which called for convening a Middle East peace conference .

He expressed the hope that all the obstacles facing the conference will be overcome so talks on a solution of the Palestinian issue can begin. He stressed the need for the concerned parties to show eagerness to make these talks successful, particularly because the Arab side has proven it cares for peace. He said that the Arab parties are holding consultations on the Palestinian issue and on ending the occupation. He added that Arab opinion is unanimous on these issues and that it is now the Israelis' turn to act on this peace opportunity so the region's countries can live in an honorable peace which has not been dictated to the Arabs.

Egypt's Musa Briefs GCC Envoys on Levi Talks

NC0108120791 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held an expanded meeting in Cairo with the ambassadors of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states and Syria today. He explained the results of Egypt's talks with the Israeli foreign minister and Egypt's position on Moscow's call for convening a Middle East peace conference. Musa noted the need to coordinate Arab stands in the coming stage to strengthen the Arab position and regain the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He also reviewed the topics to be discussed at the Islamic foreign ministers' meeting scheduled to be held in Istanbul on Sunday and asserted the need to coordinate Arab stands during the conference.

Saudi Mediation in Bahraini-Qatari Border Dispute

PM3107144891 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Jul 91 p 1

[Sulayman Nimr report: "Saudi Mediation To Resolve Dispute Between Qatar and Bahrain"]

[Text] Riyadh—AL-HAYAH has learned that a meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states' Foreign Ministry undersecretaries, scheduled to beld in Doha last Monday, was postponed at the last moment until a later date which has not been fixed.

An informed Gulf source has told AL-HAYAH that the meeting was postponed at the Bahraini Government's request because of undeclared tension in Qatari-Bahraini relations, after the Qatari Government on 13 July submitted to the International Court of Justice, in The Hague, a complaint against Bahrain concerning the dispute over the Hawar peninsula [as published] and the two islands of Fasht al-Dibal and Jaradah.

In a statement, the Bahraini Government denied all the claims made by Qatar in its complaint, emphasizing Bahrain's sovereignty over Hawar, Fast al-Dibal, and Jaradah.

AL-HAYAH has learned that a Saudi intervention vis-a-vis Qatar and Bahrain prevented a possible open deterioration of relations between the two countries, following the Qatari complaint and the Bahraini reply.

Gulf sources fear that the Qatari-Bahraini border dispute could have a negative impact on the course of joint cooperation among the six Arab states. The sources revealed that the governor of the Bahraini Central Bank did not attend a joint meeting of governors of the Gulf central banks in Doha some two weeks ago. No other Bahraini officials failed to attend Gulf meetings, held within the GCC framework at the General Secretariat's headquarters in Riyadh. The Bahraini Government is currently busy, drafting a documented legal reply to the Qatari Government's memorandum to the International Court of Justice.

As is known, the Qatari-Bahraini dispute over Hawar and Fasht al-Dibal started in 1939, when the British governor in the region issued a decision awarding Hawar island to Bahrain, even though it is situated only 1 kilometer from the Qatari coast. In 1947, the British governor issued another decision awarding Fasht al-Dibal island and the nearby small island of Jaradah to Bahrain. Fasht al-Dibal is some 8-10 miles from the Qatari al-Shamal gasfield, which is regarded as one of the most important gasfields in the Gulf region and whose exploitation began early this year.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Conditions for Participation in Peace Talks

AB0208115291 Paris AFP in French 1059 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] Tunis, 2 Aug (AFP)—The Palestinian news agency WAFA announced today that the PLO has officially expressed its agreement on the "principle" of holding a peace conference in the Middle East outlined at the Soviet-American summit in Moscow but at the same time listed a series of "conditions" and "guarantees" for the success of any peace process.

Quoting an official Palestinian source, WAFA reported five "guarantees" which form the basis for PLO participation in such a conference, notably the implementation of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 on Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories (including Jerusalem); the Palestinian people's right to self-determination; the PLO's designation of its representatives to the conference; and an immediate end to the colonization in the territories.

Palestinian Team Meets Baker on Representation

JN0208132391 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Basim Abu-Sumayah dispatch from the "occupied territories"]

[Excerpt] Chief U.S. diplomat James Baker opened a meeting this morning with a team of three Palestinian figures, Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Zakariya al-Agha. The meeting has been going on for three hours and is still continuing. The discussion is being held amid feelings of reservation and uneasiness shown by the members of the team and other Palestinian figures during lengthy discussions last night. According to Palestinian sources, the team submitted a memorandum to Baker which reasserted their position on Palestinian representation—the major obstacle in the political process.

Faysal al-Husayni, who is heading the Palestinian team, has asserted that Palestinian representation is a matter that concerns solely the Palestinians and that no one has the right to interfere in this issue. Al-Husayni added that Israel should accept the Palestinian position to ensure the negotiations' success and achieve peace in the region.

Because the meeting is still under way, media comment is still dominated by observers' expectations. The Palestinians who went to meet with Baker were not optimistic yesterday and had the feeling that they were approaching a very serious stage. Their discussions centered on the participation of representatives of Jerusalem in the Palestinian delegation to the talks. Minute details related to the makeup of the Palestinian delegation were discussed during the sub-rosa meeting between Baker and the Palestinian figures. [passage omitted]

Faysal al-Husayni on Palestinian Representation

LD0208105291 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] Despite the PLO's agreement in Tunisia yesterday on today's meeting between the U.S. secretary of state and personalities from inside the occupied territories, the official PLO response to the recent development on the peace plan has not thus far been announced. Faysal al-Husayni, however, one of the most important personalities from the Palestinian delegation due to meet Baker today, was definite in his reply to Israel's decision yesterday. Faysal al-Husayni stressed clearly to AFP that there is no room whatsoever for the exclusion of the sons of occupied East Jerusalem from the peace negotiations and that no one but the Palestinians has a right to choose the delegation that will represent them. He reiterated his rejection of all formulas for a settlement that have recently been proposed in this connection. Al-Husayni added: How do you expect us to accept Israel's conditions without any reservations, while—and after a long time—Israel replies: Yes, But?

Says No Concessions in Baker Meeting

TA0108130691 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 1 Aug 91 pp 1, 11

[Report by Khalid Abu-'Akr]

[Text] Jerusalem—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will hold a fifth meeting in Jerusalem tomorrow with three Palestinian figures to discuss the issue of Palestinian representation at the proposed peace conference.

Baker will meet at 1100 tomorrow in the U.S. Consulate with Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. Hannan 'Ashrawi, and Zakariyya al-Agha. The Palestinian side expects to receive answers and clarifications to some of the issues which were raised during the previous meetings, especially the question of Palestinian representation. On the other hand, the American side expects to obtain concessions from the Palestinians on this issue.

Faysal al-Husayni said that the Palestinians were informed of Baker's visit to Jerusalem and that they are awaiting the PLO's stance on meeting with him. He stressed that the Palestinian position regarding the question of representation is clear and known to everyone and there is no room for concessions.

Commenting on the U.S.-Soviet agreement to call for the convocation next October of a peace conference on the Middle East, Faysal al-Husayni said that he does not think "that invitations will be issued with no Palestinian answer." He added: "We have certain questions and demands to which until now we have not obtained answers from the Americans. Hence, they will not receive a Palestinian response from us."

Al-Husayni underscored the commitment of the Palestinians to the issue of Jerusalem and their rejection of the idea of leaving discussion of this problem to the second stage of the negotiations, even if the Americans were to give guarantees affirming that they will not retreat from regarding Jerusalem as an occupied area. He emphasized "that Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories and the future capital of the Palestinian state. One cannot overlook this issue." He said: "What they require from us now is that no Jerusalem Palestinian should attend the peace conference. If we agree on this point, we would be supporting the Israeli position."

On the announcement by PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim that the United States informed al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi that it ruled out their participation in the peace conference, al-Husayni said: "The Americans informed us that the Israeli position rejects the presence of Jerusalem representatives in the Palestinian delegation. Consequently, they asked us to respond positively to this Israeli position in return for certain guarantees to be offered by the United States on Jerusalem's future status. We informed the American side of our rejection of the Israeli position and asked them to address this issue by contacting the Israelis."

Al-Hurani Welcomes Call for Peace Conference

NC0108124591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1151 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Tunis, 1 Aug (MENA)—The PLO has welcomed the call for a Middle East peace conference in October. PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah al-Hurani has stressed that the Palestinian people and the PLO are the first parties concerned with peace in the region. In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Tunis, he said that no other people have been exposed to suppression, persecution, occupation of land, and usurpation of Palestinian rights as we have, and, consequently, we are concerned with convening a peace conference as quickly as possible. He stressed that convening a peace conference is not a goal in itself.

Al-Hurani stressed the need for ensuring the conditions necessary for a successful conference so that it can achieve a just and comprehensive peace that considers the rights of all the region's people. He pointed out that the PLO continues to emphasize the need for guarantees to ensure that the conference will bring about Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem; will enable the Palestinian people to exercise their rights and determine their future in confederation with Jordan in accordance with the Palestine National Council's decision; that settlements and seizure of land by the occupation authorities will be stopped; and will ensure that the conditions for Palestinian participation in the conference will be equal to those for the other parties' representation, so that the Palestinian delegation includes representatives from inside and outside the occupied land and from Jerusalem.

Al-Hurani said neither the PLO nor the Palestinian people can in any way accept the exclusion of Jerusalem from the representation at the conference. Concluding his statment, he said that if the PLO has these guarantees, it will help the PLO make a decision on Palestinian participation within the appropriate framework, including a joint delegation with Jordan.

Fatah's Zaki Favors Independent Delegation

JN0208105591 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Aug 91 pp 1, 12

[By Sa'd al-Silawi; all parentheses as published]

[Excerpts] 'Abbas Zaki, Fatah Central Committee member and secretary of the higher committee for the intifadah, has stressed that any Palestinian delegation or individual that meets with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker or attends a peace conference in any country represents only himself, unless publicly or secretly ordered to the contrary by the PLO or the Executive Committee, which is (the Palestinian government).

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Zaki said that no meeting has taken place without prior authorization from the PLO. If the United States is seeking a permanent peace, he added, it must speak with the PLO directly. If Baker's visit to Tunisia seeks this goal, it means that the U.S. moves toward peace are serious. He added: What I know, however, is that his tour of the Arab Maghreb countries aims to invite these countries to attend the proposed conference. This highlights the U.S.-Zionist insistence on normalizing Arab-Israeli relations and on bypassing the national rights of the Palestinian people.

Zaki denied any split within Fatah and said the movement reaffirmed the consistent Palestinian principles during its meetings in Tunis. He said that Fatah is fully concerned about Palestinian rights and that it rejects capitulation under the peace process umbrella. [passage omitted]

Asked about a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation for the proposed conference in October, Zaki said: We want an independent Palestinian delegation, as it will protect Jordan and will reaffirm both the Palestinian and Jordanian national identities. From Israel's perspective, the solution should be at Jordan's expense, and it believes that Jordan should retreat before Arab and international pressure and absorb the Palestinians. If we have an independent Palestinian delegation, however, Jordan will not be concerned, and the problem will not be solved at its expense. We have not observed any Jordanian official to ignoring the PLO or disregard independent Palestinian decisionmaking. Jordan has always stressed that the Palestinians have their own options. The United Stats and its camp, on the other hand, are trying to bypass the PLO to harm both Jordan and Palestine.

The Fatah Central Committee member said: We do not want to say a big (no), because this will cost a great deal. We are speaking to remind our brothers who trust the United States to be assured on the following questions: Will there be an immediate withdrawal of the Israeli authorities from the territories occupied in 1967 in accordance with Resolution 242, which is the bare minimum? Will holy Jerusalem, the cradle of divine religions, be the capital of Palestine? Or—as Israel wants it to be—will it be a non-Arab and a non-Muslim city? Do the Palestinian people have national and political rights? Are there guarantees that greater Israel will not be established? Are there guarantees that the Arabs will enjoy the use of their waters and natural resources in Palestine?

Zaki asked: Can any Fatah leader disavow the martyrs, violate the pledge, and abandon the militant march? Like all peoples that have struggled against occupation, these people are prepared to continue their struggle for 100 years until they attain their rights. Fatah adheres to its principles and will not abandon them.

'Activist' Says Palestinians Must Choose Delegates

JN0108114491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Interview from the "With the Midday Events" program with Palestinian activist Dr. Zakariya al-Agha by correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-Zayid] Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, what is the Palestinian position in view of the announcement of the regional conference in October?

[Al-Agha] The truth is that we support any call for convening a peace conference to resolve the Middle East problem and the Palestinian question through a just solution that ensures each party's rights, especially the Palestinian right to self-determination, and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Palestinian land. This conference must be well prepared, however, and all parties must be treated equally, including the Palestinian side represented by the PLO.

[Abu-Zayid] Dr. Zakariya, it has been reported that individuals from Jerusalem will not participate in the conference.

[Al-Agha] This is incorrect and is unjust. As Palestinians, we do not accept this because we have the right to be addressed as a people, and we have the right to form our Palestinian delegation as we deem appropriate. No party has the right to veto or object to any member of this delegation. The issue is not that of individuals from Jerusalem or elsewhere, but rather the right of the Palestinian side to form the Palestinian delegation as it sees fit. If we are not treated with the same considertion shown the other parties, then I believe that the chance of our participation in this conference will be slim.

[Abu-Zayid] Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, some people call for boycotting this conference.

[Al-Agha] The truth is that we do not oppose participating in any peace conference; however, we cannot participate in a peace conference at any cost. There must be clear principles for all so that all parties feel equal and believe that the conference seeks to achieve concrete results and is not being convened simply for the sake of holding a conference.

I believe that if the parties who supervise the conference, other international groups, and the Israeli side are serious, then there will be a solution. If the entire objective is to impose the status quo and Israel's objectives, however, this conference will have no positive results.

[Abu-Zayid] The U.S. secretary of state will arrive in the country today. Were you invited to meet with him?

[Al-Agha] The truth is that I have not been invited, but there are reports that invitations are on the way. I will respond to the invitation when it is sent to me.

[Abu-Ziyad] What will you tell Baker?

[Al-Agha] Well, we will tell Baker what we have always told him. We will theil him that the Palestinians, as I have said before, must be treated as a people, not as a minority in a country, Israel. To be treated as a people means that we must be treated on equal footing, we must have the right to choose our delegation as we deem appropriate, and we must be able to go to the conference free from previously imposed conditions.

Palestinian Figure Opposes Baker Talks

TA0108114891 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 29 Jul 91 p 5

[Interview with Bi'r Zayt University lecturer Ghassan al-Khatib by Rina Ard'aji; place and date not given]

[Text] [Ard'aji] Why do you oppose meeting with the U.S. secretary of state?
[Al-Khatib] We do not oppose the meetings if they seek to implement international legitimacy and do not seek negotiations under unilateral American supervision.

[Ard'aji] You did not express your view on these meetings publicly, nor did you participate in any press conferences held on the issue.
[Al-Khatib] We are trying to avoid transferring the disagreement to the streets, to keep from creating a negative atmosphere. There still is a common understanding about calm dialogue within the framework of responsibility. In addition, we have not seen anyone making concessions or renouncing their rights. We do not differ over the principle of a negotiated settlement. The disagreement is more over the approach than the position.

[Ard'aji] Which, in your view, is the proper alternative approach?
[Al-Khatib] The proper approach would not have responded to the U.S. efforts. The PLO should not have agreed to meet with Baker, even for a limited period, so we could have exploited the U.S. need for a Palestinian delegation and exerted pressure for a dialogue with the PLO.

[Ard'aji] How can you oppose those meetings which were decided on in Tunis? Don't you believe your opposition weakens the PLO and harms its credibility?
[Al-Khatib] What has happened proves the opposite. Despite the fact that the delegation was formally authorized by the PLO, the meetings have, in fact, undermined the PLO's role.

[Ard'aji] What is your view of the Palestinian representation in potential talks? Can the issue of representation be divided into two stages?
[Al-Khatib] In the event of negotiations on the basis of international legitimacy, the Palestinian delegation should include Palestinians from inside and outside the territories, in addition to Palestinians from Jerusalem. The people are one and the cause is one; therefore, the delegation should be one from the outset.

[Ard'aji] Don't you believe that it would be illogical to suspend the talks now?
[Al-Khatib] Herein lies the danger. If those meetings begin, it will force the Palestinian delegation to continue. Now, however, we can say it is not too late to announce the suspension of the meetings, because this stage is very sensitive and requires official answers. The U.S. Administration should approach the PLO now, especially

because the Palestinians have demonstrated great flexibility thus far. The time has come for the U.S. Administration to ask the Israeli side about its readiness to enter negotiations based on the Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy.

[Ard'aji] But don't you believe that boycotting the U.S. secretary will make it seem that the Palestinians are obstructing peace?
[Al-Khatib] Who will be the judge in those negotiations? The United States naturally. It will never say that the Israeli Government obstructs the peace process but will definitely point to the Palestinians. The ongoing debate over the delegation and the representation of Jerusalem is an example of America's bias toward Israel. Its unilateral supervision will always give the Palestinians two options: either make more concessions or be accused of obstruction.

[Ard'aji] What position will you hold if a potential peace conference reaches the practical stage?
[Al-Khatib] Should that happen, and if there is any concession on the right of self-determination, there will be an escalation, a popular debate, and discussions at all levels so that the masses can settle the issue.

[Ard'aji] Shamir has said that al-Asad will become a second al-Sadat. Do you expect Syria to conduct bilateral negotiations with Israel?
[Al-Khatib] I don't believe that is possible, but these days surprises are very likely.

[Ard'aji] Do you believe the Palestinian people are now in a difficult situation? They have the decision from Tunis but also fear a second Camp David agreement.
[Al-Khatib] The time is not ripe yet for an assessment for two reasons: First, the U.S. plan has not been crystallized into a tangible form that the Palestinian people can support or oppose. Second, the issues are still being debated at various levels, including the popular level, and the outcome is still vague. The people support the PLO, but they also think and demand accountability. The best example of this is what happened when the Amman agreement was signed in 1985. The Palestinians continued to support the PLO as the symbol of their aspirations, while at the same time they took a role in political decisionmaking.

[Ard'aji] What do you think of the proposal that Jerusalem be run jointly under independent sovereignty?
[Al-Khatib] The solution should not necessarily include a redivision. We are ready to discuss a formula that ensures both Palestinian sovereignty over East Jerusalem as well as Jerusalem's unity.

[Ard'aji] What scenario do you see in the future?
[Al-Khatib] U.S. pressure will continue until it collides with one of two possibilities: Either the Palestinians will discover they have reached the limit of their flexibility, or Israel will obstruct the efforts by taking intransigent positions (by U.S. standards), especially once the sides begin to discuss details.

Palestinian Reconciliation Talks Reportedly Fail

TA3007191791 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Text] Reports from Damascus indicate that the Palestinian delegation currently in the Syrian capital and led by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's political department, has failed to achieve progress in the talks for reconciliation between Yasir 'Arafat and the representatives of the pro-Syrian PLO breakaway factions. The reports added that the talks broke down because the Islamic groups demanded 40 percent of the Palestine National Council seats.

Editorial Questions U.S.-Soviet Seriousness

TA0108150191 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Aug 91 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Two Decisive Months"]

[Text] The Soviet and U.S. leaders had no sooner issued yesterday's invitation at the end of their Moscow summit to convene next October a peace conference on the Middle East than Israel hastened, through Yosi Ahime'ir, director of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's office, to declare its refusal to take part in this conference, pointing out that Israel's participation is connected to solving the question of the Palestinian delegation's makeup. He affirmed that Israel will not negotiate over Jerusalem or with any Arab resident in the delegation, nor will it accept the PLO's presence in any negotiations.

Thus the upshot of the Israeli position regarding the superpowers' invitation to convene a peace conference indicates that Israel's leaders are determined to put more obstacles in the path of the peace process with the aim of blackmailing, wasting time, and forcing the U.S. Administration to exert further pressure on the Arab states to extract more concessions, particularly on the issue of Jerusalem. Some Arab countries are actually applying pressure on the PLO to make concessions over this issue.

Although it is premature to judge the seriousness of the U.S.-Soviet invitation to convene a peace conference or the ability of the two sides to advance the peace process so that its objectives may be achieved under the guidance of UN resolutions, especially 242 and 338, the American tone of address to Israel, which seeks to placate and appease, reveals the U.S. Administration's lack of desire to force Israel to comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

It is worth noting that the U.S. Administration, while striving to impose its hegemony within the framework of what it calls "the new world order," is pressing on the Soviets' painful spots, exploiting the Soviet Union's need for economic aid and its domestic crises, which are causing personal pressure on Gorbachev.

While reaffirming the need to hold an international Middle East conference with plenary powers, attended

by the PLO alongside the other parties to the conflict, we warn and caution about the plans which the U.S. Administration is trying to propagate in the region. On the surface, those plans appear to be incompatible with Israel's, but in fact they are in line with Israel's goals and contradict Arab and Palestinian aspirations.

U.S.-Soviet Invitation to Peace Conference Viewed

TA0108155791 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 1 Aug 91 p 7

[Editorial: "Bush and Gorbachev and Issuing of Invitations!"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush announced that he had agreed with his Soviet counterpart, Mikhail Gorbachev, to issue invitations to a peace conference on the Middle East to be convened in October. He also announced that Secretary of State James Baker will arrive in the region today in a bid to persuade Israel to join the negotiations.

The U.S.-Soviet agreement to set a date for issuing invitations to the proposed peace conference came at the same time that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was declaring his rejection of the land for peace principle or even the thought of withdrawing from the occupied Palestinian lands and the Syrian Golan Heights.

The Soviet-U.S. decision to issue invitations to the parties to the conflict contains more than one meaning. On one hand, it can be said that this decision is irrevocable because Washington and Moscow insist on convening a peace conference. On the other hand, the parties to the conflict have to give a positive response to this invitation, especially since the one that refuses to do so will bear the responsibility for the failure of the peace process. Yet still, this decision might be purely an attempt to overcome the obstacles, in particular those pertaining to the Israeli conditions regarding the question of Palestinian representation.

No sooner had this decision been issued than the Israeli Prime Minister's spokesman affirmed the Shamir government's commitment to its positions, which reject the participation of any representative from Jerusalem's Arab residents. Hence, he rejected any step which could be seen as a concession, adding that "Israel will not participate in a peace conference unless agreement is reached on the formation of the Palestinian delegation."

Naturally, according to the Israeli viewpoint, agreement on the Palestinian delegation means acceptance of the Israeli conditions. Hence, this was Israel's initial reaction to President Bush's announcement. This means that Israel still insists on obtaining what it wants; that is the exclusion of Jerusalem's Arab residents from membership in the proposed Palestinian delegation.

The Soviet and American presidents have left considerable ambiguities on a large number of issues. They did not announce any joint stance on Security Council Resolution 242, the land for peace principle, or the need of halting settlement in the occupied territories. In addition, they did not announce any position on the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, particularly the right to self-determination and choice of representatives.

In any event, the Bush-Gorbachev decision to set a date for issuing invitations will elicit unlimited comments and analyses, but we reiterate that it is essential to announce joint principles if the world actually wants to launch a peace process in the region.

U.S. Said To Favor Israel on Conference

LD0108213291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] No sooner had the Bush-Gorbachev summit called for a Mideast peace conference in October, then Israel hastened to announce Israel's refusal to participate in this conference through the director of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's office. The director pointed out that Israel's participation is linked with settling the issue of the Palestinian delegation and stressed that Israel will not negotiate over Jerusalem [break in reception] and the PLO will have no presence in any negotiations.

Thus, the Israeli position on the two superpowers' call for the peace conference suggests that Israel's leaders are determined to lay more obstacles in the way of the peace process to waste time, blackmail, and push the U.S. Administration to put more pressure on the Arab countries to extract further concessions. This is especially true for the issue of Jerusalem, which some Arab sides are trying to pressure the organization to give up.

It is premature to judge the seriousness of the Soviet-U.S. call for holding the peace conference and the ability of the two sides to help the peace process achieve its objectives. However, the U.S Administration's use of international resolutions as inspiration—especially Resolutions 242 and 338 which are the basis of the U.S. discourse that appeases Israel—reveals the U.S. Administration's lack of any genuine will to force Israel to comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

It should be pointed out that the U.S. Administration, as it tries to impose its domination within what it calls the new world order, pressures Soviet [word indistinct], taking advantage of that country's need for economic support and of the internal crises that have put Gorbachev personally under pressure.

As we reiterate the need for holding a fully valid international conference in the Middle East which is attended by the PLO side-by- side with the other parties to the conflict, we warn against the theses the U.S. Administration has been trying to spread in the region that seem

to oppose Israel on the surface, but in fact meet its objectives and contradict the theses of the Arabs and Palestinians.

Commentary Seeks Guarantees on Israeli Withdrawal

LD0108173291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the Bush-Gorbachev summit was held today in Moscow amid a host of evidence and pointers on further harmony and understanding between the two superpowers regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine issue. The summit constitutes an event of the utmost importance in view of the nature of the subjects it will deal with, particularly the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine issue.

All the evidence indicates the possibility of the Soviet and U.S. leaders planning to send out invitations to the parties to the Middle East conflict to attend a peace conference in order to discuss the means of finding a comprehensive and lasting settlement in the region on the basis of the UN resolutions, particularly resolutions 242 and 338. While following up with interest [word indistinct] the Soviet-U.S. summit in Moscow today, we are bound to reaffirm the firmly established bases of the Palestinian stance regarding the means of resolving the conflict; these firmly established bases [words indistinct] the resolutions of international legitimacy which have recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and their right to establish their independent state on their national soil.

There is no doubt that the Soviet stance is in harmony with and identical to the Palestinian and Arab stance in its perception of [word indistinct] a comprehensive and lasting solution [word indistinct] ("whether) concerning the form and authorities of the proposed peace conference or concerning the question of Palestinian representation at that conference—a question around which the United States is still maneuvering, responding to Israeli wishes. Yesterday, the PLO urged the U.S.-Soviet summit to provide international guarantees in order to insure that the objective of a peace conference will be total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories including Jerusalem and to grant the Palestinian people the right of self-determination. Without these guarantees, any move in the direction of pushing the peace process forward will be planted with mines laid by Israel on the path of peace through its interpretations of international resolutions and of the principle of exchanging land for peace. These interpretations are contradictory to the resolutions of international legitimacy in form and content.

While watching with great interest what the summit might lead to today regarding the question of resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict, we hope that a just solution to the Middle East issue will be reached that will respond to the inalienable Palestinian rights and that the same criteria that were applied to resolve the Gulf crisis will be applied to the Palestine issue.

If we are pinning our hopes on today's summit it is because we are the seekers of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace and because we understand the resolutions of international legitimacy with an unambiguous and unobscure clarity and with a sincerity that enjoys the respect of all peaceloving people in the world.

Algeria

Conference Between Government, Parties Continues

FLN Withdraws

LD0108225791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2200 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Excerpt] The FLN [National Liberation Front] pulled out of the national conference on the third day of the meeting between the government and political parties.

[Unidentified journalist] The FLN in its turn is leaving the meeting between government and political parties. At exactly 10:35 we met near the palace gate the secretary general of the FLN, Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri, accompanied by three FLN militants. Mr. Mehri, is it true that the FLN left the committee room where a general policy statement was being drafted? The answer is yes. As far as we are concerned, there has been a misunderstanding somewhere. It is not the reason for which we came.

But you stay in plenary session, don't you? Answer from Mr. Mehri: We pull out from the meeting. [passage omitted]

FIS Official Explains Absence

LD0108171191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] As you know, ladies and gentlemen, the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has been absent from the government-parties conference of dialogue and consultation. Our colleague in Setif, Faysal Ghamis, has interviewed Cheikh Said Guechi, who explained that FIS nonparticipation in the conference did not mean boycott. Cheikh Guechi attributed the absence of FIS to the absence of leadership. Faysal Ghamis reports from Setif:

[Begin Guechi recording] [passage omitted] At its last meeting, last Monday, before the convening of the government-parties national conference, the [word indistinct] National Council decided not to participate in the conference for the following reasons, including: until today, the National Council had not formed an official leadership with the right to take part, or to hold a dialogue with the government or all the concerned bodies in the country. For instance, we had not appointed an official spokesman. The nonparticipation of the FIS in this conference does not mean a boycott, either effectively or politically. In fact, in loyalty to the results of the Batna seminar, and pending the emergence of a legitimate leadership—if not legal, then legitimate—and in loyalty to the grass roots, we decided not to take part in the conference.

On the other hand, we deemed that the nonparticipation of the FIS would reflect some issues. For instance, we were hoping for the release of all prisoners, and the immediate reappointment of all fired strikers to their posts. To clarify things, yesterday I sent a telegram to the prime minister. I think it is in his hands. In it, I said: As a member of the FIS National Council, and as chairman of the National Committee for Organization and Coordination, and as I was charged by this new National Council on Monday to deal with official relations with all authorities, I reassure you that the nonparticipation of the FIS does not mean a boycott. It simply means a political stance, specific in time and space, until a legitimate leadership emerges.

By sending this telegram to the prime minister and to all those present at the national conference, I want to thank all those who had intervened and expressed their worry and regretted the nonparticipation of the FIS in the conference, which I consider to be historic. I thank them sincerely because they have also frankly demanded the release of Cheikh Abassi Madani and Cheikh Ali Belhadj, and the reappointment of the fired strikers. I believe that many of those present spoke for the FIS. [end recording]

Coordination Committee Formed

LD0208020891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Report on conference between Algerian Government and political parties in Algiers]

[Text] Tonight's proceedings discussed the third issue on the agenda, namely the structuring of dialogue and the consultation on preparing for the legislative elections. The new element in tonight's proceedings was the issue of setting up a 25-party coordination committee, which was unanimously approved and will be headed by Said Saadi. The committee is in charge of drafting proposals to be discussed at the hall, and it began its work in parallel with conference proceedings. The following points were approved on its agenda:

1. Immediately lifting the state of siege.

2. Revising the law of legislative elections and of the constituency division, including the issue of holding presidential elections.

3. Opening a dialogue.

4. Condemning violence of whatever nature or form.

5. Protecting information.

6. Calling on the authorities to return state money which was and still is under National Liberation Front [FLN] custody.

Hamas [Islamic Society Movement] proposed another point calling for freeing political detainees. All these points were unanimously approved.

At the start of the committee proceedings, however, the FLN representative opposed including the point on

reconsidering the elections laws and constituency division and the sixth point, regarding calling on the authorities to return state money which was and still is under FLN custody.

The FLN representative withdrew from the hall where the committee meeting was taking place.

As for the point of setting an election date, MAJD [Algerian Movement for Justice and Development] proposed that they be held before December. All parties participating in the committee approved of holding the legislative elections before the end of the year.

As for the point proposed by Hamas on freeing political prisoners, it was agreed that responsibility for events be laid on all sides, on the two sides which are the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leadership, on the one hand, and the authorities, on the other.

The committee ended its proceedings a little while ago and proposed setting up a body for dialogue and consultation between the parties and the government. Before adjourning the afteroon session, Djaballah [Nahda movement leader] proposed a concluding communique which included the following points:

1. Regret for the absence of parties which refused to participate.

2. Finding an organizational framework which unites parties on the subject of legislative elections.

3. Setting up an election committee.

Djaballah also reiterated the demands of the Nahda movement: lifting of the state of siege, setting a date for the legislative elections, freeing of political prisoners.

It should be pointed out that, although these demands are not in opposition with the agenda of the coordination committee, Nahda movement did not support the idea of approving or setting up a coordination committee and Djaballah told journalists that he does not see the importance of such a committee and that it would be enough to set up a committee the work of which would be confined to the technical side only.

According to APS, the Environment and Liberty Party withdrew this evening from this national meeting. The reason for the withdrawal, according to its chairman, Ismail Boulbina, is that the agenda was not observed, on the one hand, and that interpellations were monopolized by certain parties, on the other. He pointed out that his party had been asking for an interpellation since yesterday morning until the time of withdrawal without success. Boulbina said that parties engaged in a 48-hour discussion with the prime minister about the country's economic situation, especially the Hassi Messaoud issue, and ignored the main topic on which they were supposed to confer with the government and which the people, as he said, was looking forward to seeing crowned with a result, namely the next legislative elections. The Environment and Liberty Party chairman asked in the end for the lifting of the state of siege and the freeing of FIS detainees, including Shaykhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj.

Meeting Concludes

LD0208092291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Early this morning, the proceedings of the national meeting between the government and political parties which have been going on for three days ended. For more details, we go over to Mrs. Nouara, our radio correspondent at the Palais Des Nations.

[Nouara] Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri [secretary general of the National Liberation Front, FLN] withdrew from the last session, that is, the night session. The reason for this withdrawal was disagreement over a point mentioned in the 26 Parties Committee debates which were being conducted in parallel with the night session. The point called on the state to return the assets received by the FLN, and to carry out a fair distribution of material sources among all parties following the FLN's withdrawal. [passage omitted]

The points endorsed by the Committee are: To lift the state of siege while guaranteeing security; to hold legislative elections before the end of 1991, which should be followed by a presidential election; to review the laws on the elections and the distribution of constituencies within the framework of dialogue and consultation that has stemmed from this meeting; to call on the state to return the FLN assets and carry out a fair distribution of material sources among the parties, to define responsibility with all clarity regarding the sides responsible for detonating the situation on 5 June while guaranteeing the right of defense irrespective of political affiliation; to propose the establishment of a body for consultation and dialogue between parties.

Agreement was not reached regarding these points because some parties believe that they are binding only on those who sign the document. [passage omitted]

Numerous proposals for sorting out this document were heard. The prime minister suggested meeting on 22 August to continue the dialogue. Before this date, political parties may present their proposals either individually or through forming a group of several parties to draft a proposal which will be submitted at the next meeting. [Islamic Nahda Movement Leader] Mr. Djaballah proposed that the points mentioned in the document be submitted as demands to the president of the Republic, including lifting the state of siege and releasing detainees.

The prime minister's proposal was heard following the discussion of various issues on the agenda. These issues were included on the list which was prepared and read out to the participants. It said: Following a discussion of the various issues on the agenda of the meeting between

the government and political parties, held between 30 July and 2 August 1991, agreement has been reached on the following points:

1. To continue dialogue during a second meeting on 22 August within an organized framework.

2. To plan a new meeting to discuss proposals related to the forthcoming legislative elections which will take place before the end of this year. While awaiting this meeting, the political parties will work freely to prepare their proposals concerning arrangements for the legislative elections. These proposals should be submitted to the prime minister no later than 18 August.

The proceedings of the meeting lasted for three days and concluded at 0400 this morning. [passage omitted]

Ghozali Interviewed on Political Issues

LD0108160191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Studio interview with Algierian Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali by unidentified correspondents—live]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister: After two and a half days of work at the government-parties conference, what are the obstacles which could stand in the way of reaching tangible results? In other words, what are the most important issues that might obstruct this dialogue?

[Ghozali] When we are talking about results, the fact that this meeting between the government and the parties has taken place represents a net gain. Some participants listened to one other and some conducted a dialogue. Of course, we were somehow late somehow in following up the conference's work. This is natural because this meeting is the first of its kind, and, in the past, we as Algerians and officials missed out on sitting together and listening to one other. Everyone should get accustomed to this. We devoted much time to analyzing the economic and political situation. We believe that every Algerian has something to say on this issue. However, we have not yet outlined any tangible proposals pertaining directly to this meeting's objective. First there is the joint study of an electoral plan which can help us to achieve the government's main task in the political field: the legislative elections.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, does the extension of the conference's work mean that major issues have surfaced and constitute a bone of contention between the government and the parties?

[Ghozali] There are differences on many issues, and this is natural because, as I have said this morning, each one of us bases his statements on different information, and many have no information at all on citizens' living conditions or the primary problems of the citizen. There are those who have information, but it is distorted and based on rumors, among other things. Thus it is not strange for us to visualize problems in the same way, as we are spurred on by a single objective: the public interest of the Algerian people. We still need to provide all those concerned with the basic information that would enable them as Algerians to have a more accurate and objective visualization of the substance and dimensions of the problems and the true content of the solutions proposed by the government and the opposition. I hope that this first meeting will be concluded with an agreement to improve the mechanism of dialogue.

[Correspondent] Prime Minister, proceeding from some parties' need for information, and the fact that some do have information, you have, I believe, called for forming a committee to prepare a project for discussion. Why has a committee not been formed to draft this project?

[Ghozali] The committee is being established. This committee is an all-party committee, and the government is not involved. It trusts the parties, which will continue this meeting over the coming days so that we will not have to bring together all the parties each time we want to have a discussion. This will enable us to enter a practical stage, especially regarding the primary issue of preparing the elections.

[Correspondent] Prime Minister, after raising some economic and political issues, do you believe that you have corrected some of the parties' information?

[Ghozali] We have proposed a great deal, but it is not enough. This is a lengthy process, because there are big gaps which. [sentence incomplete as heard] Therefore, we must restore confidence and calm. This requires time and continuity in practicing dialogue daily. Dialogue is not a game or a whim as they say.

[Correspondent] Prime Minister, I believe that the parties' presence here with the government is preparing for the dialogue on the elections. On French Antenne-2, you announced the likelihood of holding the legislative elections in November. Did the parties agree to this?

[Ghozali] No; I was asked a question. But I remind you, sister, that we have announced this before, and the first time was before the government's formation on 9 June. I said: My hope is that, by the 37th anniversary of 1 November, Algeria and the Algerian people should secure a political and historic achievement. At the same time, however, what I said to French Antenne-2 was that there was no possibility of fixing a date, because holding elections depends on lifting the state of siege, and I could not discuss free elections in the context of a state of siege.

Therefore, as long as we do not know when the siege will be lifted, it is impossible to mention a specific date. As I said yesterday—and it was not the first time—I do not need the parties' permission or an agreement between parties to fix the election date.

[Correspondent] Prime Minister, is there any likelihood that the government will consult the National People's Assembly on the elections law and the electoral constituencies?

[Ghozali] If necessary, yes. As I have said, I cannot this answer now. I have said that I came to this dialogue without preconceptions, especially regarding the current conference on coordination for the electoral project. I wanted to listen to everyone. After it has heard everyone's opinion, the government will draft a project for electoral procedures. If it is necessary to change the law, for example, if I secure an accord which is liable to reassure the parties and the people about clean elections, I will not hesitate. As I said before, I will go to the National People's Assembly to propose the amendments suggested by the delegates at to the government-parties conference.

[Correspondent] Mr. Ghozali: You have contributed to a thaw between the government and the political society resulting from the siege. Do you the state of siege to be lifted prematurely?

[Ghozali] I hope so. I have told you that the siege will be lifted when the reasons behind this siege are removed once and for all. We will lift the state of siege when we are confident that these reasons have been removed; when we have ensured the citizen's security; and when the state institution's functioning has been guaranteed. I hope this will take place as soon as possible.

[Correspondent] Prime Minister, we have all noticed appeals to refrain from the use of violence during interventions by party representatives. Does this mean that our society will witness stability in the near future, God willing?

[Ghozali] God willing, I believe that this is probably the only issue which has elicted complete agreement. The principle cause for the current situation is related to violence in all its forms, as there is not a single kind of violence. Algerians are capable of overcoming this ordeal.

[Corresponent] Mr. Prime Minister, in the second point on the agenda, there was the expression on respecting legitimacy. There is an interpretation which holds that the inclusion of this expression falls can be considered political maneuvering and implicit acceptance of the present legitimacy by the political parties.

[Ghozali] This is a very important point, and I thank you for asking this question. As I said this morning, we are now going through a transitional phase, in that we used to live under specific political and economic systems, and there is a relationship between these two systems. On 23 February, a new constitution was adopted which completely changed the political and economic systems. This, however, is the law. Putting the law into practice requires certain arrangements and a specified time period. It is not surprising to witness some contradictions during the transformational period we are currently passing through.

Are we living in democracy or not? We abandoned the era of the single party; we abandoned dictatorship and the authoritarian regime, in quotation marks. We left this regime behind us; that is certain. Have we reached the state of law, however? No, not yet, because democracy is not a matter of laws; it is a daily practice and involves daily change. Nevertheless, there are other opinions which hold that the change in the constitution means that all the other laws have become unacceptable. This is another choice, which is called the revolutionary method and is accompanied by violence. There is no revolution that is not based on the use of violence.

We thus have a choice between two methods: We can believe that our laws can be incorporated into the new constitution, and we can gradually do so and accept the criticism that follows such a method; or we can say that we do not recognize these laws at all—and this method is actually being pursued by some brother officials from some parties. I am not stressing the parties but am pointing to the brothers who have preferred revolution. They have indicated that they do not recognize these laws, are ready to use violence, and have used violence. This is another method, and the question is whether the Algerian people agree with it. I do not believe so. I do not think this is the Algerian people's choice.

[Correspondent] Mr. Ghozali, does Mr. Said Ghechi's message have political significance ?

[Ghozali] If it is has political meaning, then it is not new, because, as I said this morning, I was in permanent contact with a large number of the brother officials in the FIS in my capacity as head of the government, and we conducted a very enriching exchange of views, some of which is still continuing. As far as I know, Said Guechi's letter, if I may acquaint you with its contents, says that the brothers in the FIS regret not having attended the conference. The reason behind this is internal, as they are going through a difficult period of internal reorganization. They are nevertheless ready for dialogue and still believe in dialogue within the framework of respecting Algeria's current laws—even though, like the large majority of Algerians, they are not satisfied with the content of these laws. These laws have one thing in thier favor: they are currently the ones in force, and a country cannot function without laws.

[Correspondent] OK, Mr. head of government: On of the parties' leaders, and I quote him here, said in his analysis of the political situation: Had the information and the parties been committed to making an effort to adhere to the truth, we would have been able to avoid many of the problems between us. Do you think, Mr. Minister, that the information shoulders part of the responsibility in the political situation?

[Ghozali] You remember that when I went before the National People's Assembly I said that I was not one of

those who blame the information appartus for all the citizens' ailments and troubles, and I still hold this position. On the contrary, I believe that the information apparatus is one of the sectors that suffered from the policies of the past. There still is some misunderstanding between the political spheres—not only the people in the opposition, but the people in power as well—and the men and women in the informational field. As far as I am concerned, perhaps we should devote a special meeting to this issue as part of the dialogue with the parties.

[Correspondent] In the presence of...

[Ghozali] In the presence of journalists. There is a tendency among politicians here to continually blame the information apparatus. I have remarked, between parentheses, that this is the same conduct they are blaming on the single party. This is what made me say on some occasions that there are seventy single parties.

[Correspondent] It is widely thought that this meeting is a step toward a new political practice. Maybe this will let us discard the old ways.

[Ghozali] You are accustomed to the [word indistinct]. Even the National People's Assembly has criticized you a great deal.

[Correspondent] Yes, we are accustomed. Prime Minister, can we return to some issues that continue to raise some questions? There is a point of view which says that some parties' absence, especially the Islamic Salvation Front, will affect the strength of this meeting's results.

[Ghozali] Naturally, whenever there is an absence. [sentence incomplete as heard] We proposed this dialogue, as we have indicated from the beginning, before the government was formed, when I said: We want to have a dialogue with all parties, without exception.

[Correspondent] No, I am speaking about this meeting.

[Ghozali] Without exception. Therefore, it is better for all parties to be present. When one is absent, even a small party, this will cause seriously hinder activity. My hope is that the absent parties will return, God willing. We know why some parties are absent, because they announced their reasons. There is another party, however, which said it would attend but did not. I do not understand this. We nevertheless are always prepared to have further meetings with all the parties that did not attend, irrespective of the reasons.

[Correspondent] Prime Minister, perhaps the results reached through consensus at this meeting may not bind the other absent parties, for example, on preparations for the elections?

[Ghozali] No, no harm will be done, because this is not the only meeting. This is just a starting point, and there is still further dialogue ahead. Dialogue is still ahead.

[Correspondent] Last question, Prime Minister, and we apologize, because we have burdened you with questions. What do you think of Mr. Nahnah's [leader of HAMAS Islamic Society Movement] suggestion to form a consultative council consisting of the parties which would discuss important issues?

[Ghozali] This is a proposal I respect. But is it possible in practice? This leads us to the first question about the possibility of continuing the democratic process by respecting priorities and respecting the law. In the attempt to amend the law, we must determine our priorities. We in the government say that priority is the National People's Assembly. As for all the issues pertaining to the constitution, these will be discusssd later. A consultative council is a new institution. Cheikh Mafoud Nahnah has perhaps proposed a new institution, and therefore concerns giving priority to something else which we had not foreseen. A consultative council is perhaps a new people's assembly. How can we think about a new people's assembly, while at the same time say that we must form a people's assembly through free and honest elections? How? Because no one has voted for these parties.

[Correspondent] Yes, and they admit that they do not represent legality, as long as the people have not voted. This showed in their interventions several times. Prime Minster, we apologize for...

[Ghozali] No, do not apologize.

[Correspondent] For the inconvenience, because it is dinner time, and perhaps political society is waiting for you. Prime Minister, there is a very simple question: What are the reasons behind the proposal to stop direct relays from the hall.

[Ghozali] Some TV technicians contacted us saying: We fear that if we continue the live relay it will inconvenience the viewers. This is their assessment; this is just their assessment. The proposal was rejected. Those concerned have preferred to face the risks of the people becoming bored.

[Correspondent] You, personally, are for the live relay or for a recorded relay?

[Ghozali] No, I, by God, was open to any. [sentence incomplete as heard] I was open. I am among those who prefer to listen to those qualified to discuss the matter, the technicians. The technicians have made an effort, but they have not tried to impose anything on us. They said: We are prepared to continue, but perhaps this will have negative aspects that will exceed its positive aspects.

[Correspondent] Yes, once again, listeners, we thank the prime minister for his kindness, and we hope that there will more contacts on this channel, God willing.

[Ghozali] God willing.

Ghozali Says 55 Killed During State of Siege

LD0108142191 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali has just given an official toll of the state of siege between 4 June and 28 July: According to him there were 55 deaths, 326 injured, and 2,976 people arrested, of which more than 1,000 are still being held.

FLN's Mehri Holds News Conference

LD2807034591 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] After a marathon closed session of the FLN Central Committee, Secretary-General Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri held a news conference this morning in which he talked about the party's preoccupations and positions. Over to Belkacem Djaafria.

[Begin recording] [Djaafria] Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri tackled numerous subjects, from issues concerning the FLN to the parties' conference with the government next Tuesday and Wednesday, and the country's economic situation, the electoral law, and the president of the republic's resignation from the post of FLN chairman and other matters.

The secretary-general promised journalists that he would raise the issue of their presence at the next Central Committee session. Due to the numerous reports about the composition of the Political Bureau and the conflicts over the FLN leadership and its future in the country, in addition to the election of a new secretary-general, a series of questions were asked on this subject.

[Unidentified correspondent] Regarding the election of the Political Bureau of the FLN Central Committee and the personal conflicts between the (?conservatives) and the reformists who separately try to control the Political Bureau, what is your comment?

[Mehri] The reply to the reason behind the essence of the conflict is that there are undoubtedly issues over which views differ, but these issues unfortunately were not discussed. We did not discuss the issue of reforms, their nature, their essence, and who supports them and who does not, and who does not support part of them or tries to amend them. Nor were the basic issues facing the country seriously discussed.

[Djaafria] The Central Committee has decided to meet again on 8 August to resume its proceedings and make final decisions, particularly on organizational matters. The FLN will take part in the parties' conference with the government.

[Mehri] The FLN will naturally take part in this conference since it is an opportunity for dialogue and the FLN is present at every opportunity for dialogue.

[Djaafria] The country's economic situation did not constitute a significant part of the journalists' interventions. Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri replied with some caution.

[Mehri] Some ideas were suggested. They were not new ideas but they were proposed again. In my opinion, these need to be dealt with with some caution until they are the subject of a wide and far-reaching discussion and the subject of an extensive study in order to avoid the improvisation of some solutions under the pressure of circumstancial needs.

[Djaafria] As regards the electoral law, Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri said that it was unreasonable to accept a parliament which legislates extremely important laws and to reject it when the matter concerns the electoral law. Mehri thinks that the electoral law was issued by a parliament whose legitimacy in passing laws is recognized. As for the president of the republic's resignation from the post of FLN chairman, Abdelhamid Mehri replied:

[Mehri] Our opinion about this is that we appreciate the noble motives which dictated this desire, we take note of it and will put it forward to the congress because it is the Congress which appointed the FLN chairman. [end recording]

Bendjedid Chairs Council of Ministers Meeting

LD2807214991 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers met today under the chairmanship of Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic. During this meeting the head of the government reviewed government activities since the last meeting of the Council of Ministers which centered round three main axes in conformity with the president's directives.

The first axis is related to the special measures geared toward restoring security for persons and property, and reinforcing public order and the decisions that will allow the consolidation of the main activities of the state. The second axis is connected with government efforts to continue its special initiative to open dialogue with the organizations according to the intentions expressed during the consultations which preceded the formation of the government. Efforts were made in this respect to hold a national meeting between the government and the parties and organizations on 30 and 31 July. In the third axis, the head of the government presented a review of the activities, decisions, and measures relating to the social and economic issues facing the country, and on tackling the imbalances affecting the economic situation.

The Council of Ministers also studied the draft bill of the 1991 supplementary budget. Due to the consequences on the budget resulting from the deterioration of the value of the dinar, and also on expenditures which were felt

mostly in recent months, the Council of Ministers registered the need to utilize a supplementary budget to help the price subsidies fund for goods in widespread usage.

The Council of Ministers also studied proposals to encourage cooperation in the field of petroleum research. [passage omitted]

In the debate, the president of the republic strongly urged the government to spare no effort to expand, consolidate, and organize the national dialogue with all partners so as to provide an atmosphere of trust and security. On the other hand, the president of the republic asked the government as a whole and each minister to maintain their interest in the economic and social issues facing the country in coordination with all central and local competent authorities.

The president of the republic insisted on the need to ensure a tight implementation of law so as to reap their benefits quickly.

Finally, the Council of Ministers agreed on the appointment of Mr. Kased Ali Noureddine as director general for Public Service; Mohamed Merzoug as director general of the Algerian news agency, APS; and Zerrouki Bellhacen as director general of national television. This ends the Council of Ministers statement.

Iraqi Trade Minister Calls for Lifting Blockade

LD2907174891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Excerpt] The Iraqi trade minister is in Algeria on an official visit. He held a news conference at the El Mithak residence this morning which was attended by Zoheir Abelhamid.

[Abdelhamid] Mr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, Iraqi trade minister and President Saddam Husayn's envoy to President Chadli Bendjedid, held a news conference at villa Djenane El Mithak this morning which he devoted to a discussion of the damages inflicted upon the Iraqi people by the economic blockade, which is still in force, and the problems faced by children and old people in this country caused by shortages in food, medicine, and drinking water. He affirmed that if the blockade continues, more than 170,000 children will die before the end of this year. He called upon all states and forces to put pressure on the United States, Britain, and their allies to enable Iraq to use its resources and funds and lift the blockade. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Said To Reject U.S. Bid To Hit Iraq

NC0108113191 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 30 Jul 91 p 1

[Amin Radwan report from Cairo]

[Excerpt] Informed Egyptian sources said yesterday that during a telephone conversation with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak two days ago, U.S. President George Bush again asked that Egypt take part in a possible military action by the allies against Iraqi nuclear installations in return for a sophisticated arms deal to Egypt.

The same sources said that Bush stressed the importance of Egypt's participation in the new military operation against Iraq, having obtained the approval of the allied states and the Gulf countries to deal such a strike.

The sources noted that Mubarak voiced his full rejection of the resumption of new military operations against Iraq. Mubarak, according to the sources, asked the United States to find a solution other than the military option against the Iraqi weapons. Mubarak stressed the need for eliminating the mass destruction weapons owned by Israel, and voiced Egypt's readiness to guarantee that Iraq will dispose of its mass destruction weapons.

The sources disclosed that Bush had also had telephone calls with the kings and princes of the six Gulf states, urging them to pressure Egypt to participate in the new military operation against Iraq. The sources said that Bush affirmed to the Gulf leaders that the new operation is an important part of security arrangements in the Gulf, which were agreed upon in the Damascus Declaration.

The Egyptian sources reiterated that none of the Gulf states had contacted Egypt on this. They said that the recent telephone conversation between President Mubarak and Saudi King Fahd did not touch on the issue. Moreover, the message sent by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to his Saudi counterpart Sa'ud al-Faysal had only dealt with the security arrangements in the Gulf in general and had not touched on the U.S. request. [passage omitted]

Musa on Baker Call, Palestinian Presence at Talks

NC0108140191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today received a telephone call from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to brief him on the results of the two-day U.S.-Soviet summit in Moscow.

Commenting on their conversation, Musa said that Baker expressed optimism over the peace process and the convening of the peace conference in October. He added that Baker stressed the need for adequate preparations to be made for the conference to ensure its success.

Asked whether the question of Palestinian representation remains an obstacle, the foreign minister expressed the hope that this obstacle will be overcome in a way that will safeguard the rights of all.

Asked about the possibility that the conference could be convened with Palestinian participation, Musa said he does not believe the conference can be held without the Palestinians.

Peace Impossible Without Israeli Withdrawal

NC0108143891 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Commentary by Muhammad Sharaf: "Land in Exchange for Peace Is the Goal of Any Talks Betweeen the Arabs and Israel"]

[Text] The Middle East issue has held center stage on the international scene since the end of the Gulf war. The recent efforts to find a solution to this chronic problem culminated with the U.S. proposals for convening a peace conference in the region. These proposals received the support of the international community, including the Arab states, which expressed their full readiness to hold talks with Israel to find solutions to the problems between the two sides. Israel has always sought direct talks with Arab countries, but when all Arab parties, without exception, announced their willingness to hold such talks, Israel made difficulties about certain procedural matters concerning the convening of the conference, such as the Palestinian representation at the talks.

The fact is that this Israeli stand is the main obstacle to starting serious negotiations to solve the problems in the region. It is the responsibility of the entire world community to stand up to the Israeli position before it is the responsibility of the Arab parties. Although no stand, no matter how hardline, by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir can surprise anyone anymore, his statement yesterday is cause for concern and raises many questions, coinciding as it did with the start of the U.S.-Soviet summit in Moscow. As U.S. President Bush was announcing that he and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev would seek the best way of convening a Middle East peace conference, Shamir was adamantly refusing to withdraw from the Arab territories, which he said were part of the Jewish people's eternal homeland. He added that Israel's territory extends from the Golan Heights in the north to Elat in the south and from the Jordan River in the east to the Mediterranean in the west. His statement also came at a time when his foreign minister, David Levi, was holding crucial talks in Cairo. Shamir made this statement despite knowing full well, and perhaps better than anyone, where Egypt and all other Arab states stand on the issue.

The bottom line here is that peace is impossible without an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. No one can reasonably expect the Arab states to sign peace treaties with Israel while their lands remain occupied. It is worth noting that when Egypt signed its peace treaty with Israel, it did so because there was a specific timetable for Israel's withdrawal from all Egyptian territory. This treaty would never have been signed had this timetable not existed.

What we wish to emphasize is that talks between the Arab parties and Israel are not an end in themselves. The end and the objective is to settle the outstanding problems between the two sides. The United States, which is playing a leading role in the peace efforts, knows this full well, as do all the other major states concerned. This is why the United States persistently stresses the need for Israel to stop building settlements in the occupied territories. By stopping its settlement activity, Israel would be showing that it was prepared to exchange land for peace, thereby creating the possibility that a just and durable peace can be achieved in the region.

Washington's and Moscow's full agreement on how to solve the problem in the region clearly emerged during the summit. When we factor in the well-known stand of the EC, which was reiterated two days ago on the occasion of the Moscow summit, we see that there is international unanimity on the need to establish international legitimacy in the region. No power in the world can support the position which the Israeli prime minister has declared and on which he insists, as support for this position would mean support for expansion by force, for aggression, and for occupation. Shamir's insistence is truly worrisome, because it will inevitably lead to the complete collapse of all efforts to find a solution to the problem. Only time will tell how this situation will end.

Amman Paper Cites Officials on Peace Process

JN3007120691 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 30 Jul 91 pp 1, 20

[Text] Zionist enemy Foreign Minister David Levi leaves Cairo tomorrow, Wednesday, at the end of his first official visit to Egypt which he started yesterday. The Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers held important talks following the Israeli minister's arrival. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak also received the Israeli foreign minister yesterday evening.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stressed to AL-RA'Y that Levi's visit to Cairo represents an important and necessary stage within the current Egyptian efforts to overcome the obstacles to peace, especially since Israel has not shown any flexibility toward the general Arab position, which is characterized by maturity and positiveness. Musa explained that Egypt insists that the aspired peace should be comprehensive and just, and that no party should speak on behalf of the other.

Within the same framework, Dr. 'Usamah al-Baz, the Egyptian president's chief adviser, said that the wheel of peace has started to turn and all parties are optimistic about the future of a just and comprehensive peace which gurantees security and peace to all parties and grants the Palestinian people their legitimate right to determine their future and establish their state on their soil.

In his statements to AL-RA'Y, al-Baz said that the peace process can be carried out in stages in order to avoid facing all problems at the same time and to facilitate

negotiations under the umbrella of the peace conference. He said, however, that these stages do not and will not mean that any party desires provisional or partial solutions; solutions will be comprehensive, just, and final. But all this, he added, will be carried out in practical steps that will take time, and this necessitates dividing the process into stages to ensure progress. Meanwhile, David Levi, foreign minister of the Zionist enemy, announced last evening that Shamir's government is eager to overcome all obstacles to the peace process.

AL-RA'Y has learned that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will return to the region before the end of this week on a sixth tour in order to agree on the first step in the peace process, which is expected to begin after the U.S. and Soviet presidents issue invitations to a peace conference under UN auspices.

Informed sources in Cairo told AL-RA'Y that Israel has agreed to the convening of the peace conference in September in any capital where it is agreed the inaugural session will be held and that all parties agree that the lasting and comprehensive peace agreement can be signed in the United States in the presence of U.S. President George Bush as such an agreement will be a major historic achievement for the U.S. Administration.

Sources stressed to AL-RA'Y that Israel informed Egypt through its foreign minister of its approval of all that is contained in Bush's peace plan except for the issue of Palestinian representation. Therefore, the trend is to hold elections in the occupied territory through which the representatives of the Palestinian people to the peace process can be selected.

AL-RA'Y has also learned that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has received an invitation from the Israeli president and prime minister to visit Israel. He told the Israeli foreign minister that he is studying the possibility of paying this visit once Israel agrees to begin the peace process and convene the peace conference. Mubarak emphasized that he will not visit Israel unless such a visit is meaningful and serves the cause of a comprehensive, lasting, and just peace.

Parliamentary Study on Regional Water Problems

NC2607144891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—The Arab Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly has prepared a study on the water crisis in the Arab region. The study stresses that water disputes are more rife in the Arab homeland and Africa than any other region in the world.In some cases, the water issue has become even more important than oil, and the 1990's will be known as the water decade, and will be the cause of any future war in the Arab region.

The parliamentary study said that the problem facing the Arab countries is that they only have 44 percent of they water they need, and that eight non-Arab countries control more than 85 percent of these countries' water resources. In addition, Israel controls a large portion of these resources and wants to steal more to supply the huge number of emigrants entering the nation.

Experts estimate that by the year 2000, Israel will need 800 million cubic meters more water per year, a need which might prompt it to initiate a war to solve the crisis. The 1967 war has provided Israel with 500 million cubic meters of water from the West Bank and 800 million cubic meters from its seizure of Lebanese rivers following its occupation of south Lebanon.

The study added that the amount of water stolen by Israel from Arab resources is approximately 1,300 million cubic meters annually. In addition, Israel continues its studies on subterranean waters, one of which confirmed the existence of a huge and very deep subterranean water reservoir in the desert and on the Egyptian-Israeli border. The water in this reservoir is estimated at around 200 million cubic meters. [sentence as received]

The study revealed that one of the important consequences of the 1967 war was that it enabled Israel to improve its water position through its occupation of the Golan Heights and the West Bank and that Israel's occupation of the Heights has made it impossible for Arab countries to divert the course of the Jordan River's tributaries. The cease-fire lines have also enabled Israel to control half the length of al-Yarmuk River, compared to only 10 km before the war. This has, in effect, ended any development of the Jordan River waters without Israel's consent.

The study said that when the Arab projects were halted, Israel got an opportunity to solve its water crisis at the expense of the Arab regions it occupied in the war. The Israelis diverted the course of al-Yarmuk River to make more of its water flow into Lake Tiberias. The Jordanians estimate that Israel is using around 100 million cubic meters annually from the al-Yarmuk River.

The study also looks into the water struggle over the Euphrates River and stresses that Iraq and Syria need to reach an agreement to divide the river's water to ensure that the two countries' have enough water to meet their needs .

The study goes on to say that Turkey's decision to stop the flow of the Euphrates River's water to Syria and Iraq for one month was part of the nascent water struggle, adding that the Turkish move constitutes a clear and direct threat to Syrian and Iraqi interests and a new threat to pan-Arab security. This problem requires action at the pan-Arab level, the study continued, stressing that mediation with Turkey, which has strong relations with a number of Arab countries, needs to be undertaken to reach an agreement that establishes the amount of water Turkey would be committed to let flow from the Euphrates into Syria and Iraq.

The study stressed that the relations among the Nile River basin countries are firm and relatively stable and

that, despite all of Egypt's efforts to maintain and control water resources, there is an increasing need for additional resources because of the constant population growth and land reclamation. Egypt has a central role in creating interest in and awareness of the need for joint cooperation among the Nile River basin countries in order to develop the Nile water resources, the report concludes.

Communique Issued on Libyan Delegation's Visit

NC2907164091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—The Egyptian People's Assembly and the Libyan General People's Congress have expressed their faith in common destiny and Arab economic integration as a means for strengthening comprehensive Arab unity. Both parties expressed their desire to strengthen the friendly and fraternal ties and bolster cooperation and common aspirations to promote popular relations between the two countries. This was stated in a joint communique released today on the visit to Egypt by the General People's Congress delegation of the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, led by 'Abd-al-Raziq Abu-Bakr al- Sawsa', secretary general of the Libyan General People's Congress. The 24 to 30 July visit is at the invitation of People's Assembly Speaker Ahmad Fathi Surur.

The joint communique noted that both parties agreed that the Libyan General Poeople's Congress and the Egyptian People's Assembly will follow up and supervise implementation of agreements concluded between the two countries in all areas. They will consider the possibility of forming a joint committee to evaluate implementation and to make the necessary proposals to advance joint action between the two countries.

The communique emphasized the importance of exchanging visits by their members and delegations to discuss consultations and of unifying positions and attitudes toward all bilateral, pan-Arab, and international issues. Both sides will examine the idea of establishing a pan-Arab parliament on the national Arab level through the Arab League. They will work through the Arab parliaments to revive the economic integration agreement, the common Arab market, and the joint defense agreement. They will study a plan for an Arab union.

The communique stressed that efforts will be made with the Arab parliaments to organize biannual or annual meetings of Arab parliament speakers in coordination with the Arab League to emphasize the Arab nation's unity. They will work to coordinate positions between the parliamentary body in the Libyan General People's Congress and the Egyptian People's Assembly in international federations and conferences. The communique said that both sides will set a timetable for the aforementioned meetings and visits and will exchange leaflets, studies, and research issued by the Libyan General People's Congress and the Egyptian People's Assembly.

Delegation Departs

NC3007083491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0735 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Jul (MENA)—'Abd-al-Raziq Abu-Bakr al-Sawsa', secretary general of the Libyan General People's Congress, and his accompanying delegation left Cairo this morning following a visit to Egypt that lasted several days. The secretary general was received by President Husni Mubarak during his stay. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister, Chief of Staff Receive Libyans

NC2707153291 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] This morning, Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi received a Libyan military delegation, led by staff Colonel 'Abd-al-Kabir al-Mahdi al-Sharif, which is currently visiting Egypt. Gen. Tantawi welcomed the Libyan delegation and expressed Egypt's constant readiness to cooperate with the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Salah Halabi received the Libyan military delegation as well. The meetings dealt with cooperation between the Egyptian Armed Forces and the General People's Committee for Defense in the Libyan Jamahiriyah, particularly in the fields of training and the exchange of expertise and visits.

Talks Held With Libya on Security Cooperation

NC2907113391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1043 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—Egyptian and Libyan delegations held talks this morning under the chairmanship of Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa and Ibrahim Muhammad Bakkar, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Justice.

The talks focused on enhancing cooperation between the Egyptian Interior Ministry and the Libyan General People's Committee for Justice in the fields of police work and security, especially ways to combat crime and drugs and the exchange of security expertise between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Electricity, Energy Talks With Libya Begin

LD2907024191 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Arab Libyan-Egyptian talks started in Cairo today in the field of electricity and energy. During these talks, which were attended by the brother general secretary of the General People's Committee for Electricity and Engineer Maher Abazah, the minister of electricy and energy in the Arab Republic of Egypt, the means to consolidate bilateral cooperation in the field of energy were discussed. They also discussed following up what

had been carried out in the fields of projects and technical studies, as well as in the fields of operation, power-stations maintainance, and training.

Two Libyan Navy Frigates Depart Alexandria

LD2707094191 Tripoli JANA in English 0806 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] Alexandria, Nasser [July] 27, JANA Arab Maghreb Union Pool—The two Libyan naval frigates "Tarq Ben Ziad" and "Al-Hani" concluded on Thursday morning a visit they made to Alexandria port in the Arab Republic of Egypt which lasted 5 days.

This visit comes within the framework of consolidating the existing fraternal relations between the sons of the one Arab people in both Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt.

Plans for Egyptian-Sudanese Summit Denied

PM3007084491 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Jul 91 p 1

[Muhammad 'Allam report: "Cairo Says: No Egyptian-Sudanese Meeting"]

[Text] Cairo, Khartoum, AL-HAYAH—A responsible Egyptian source has denied to AL-HAYAH the existence of an intention to hold in the near future an Egyptian-Sudanese meeting at summit or foreign minister level.

The source said: "Nonpolitical matters are as normal, since protocols and agreements on cooperation in other areas such as economy, trade, agriculture, irrigation, electricity, and transport are being implemented." The source emphasized that these aspects are isolated from political differences.

The source pointed out that Sudanese ministers—of agriculture, irrigation, electricity, economy, and foreign trade—have paid visits over the past six months, and the Egyptian economy minister visited Sudan two months ago.

The source also denied that that the Sudanese transport minister, who arrives in Cairo tomorrow, Saturday, will convey a message to President Husni Mubarak from President 'Umar al-Bashir, since his presence in Cairo has to do with the Arab transport ministers meetings scheduled to begin Sunday at Arab League headquarters.

The sources regarded as untrue reports of an Egyptian-Sudanese meeting held in Tripoli on the initiative of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The source said: "Egypt works openly, and it will be the first to announce such a meeting if it takes place." The source pointed out that the visit to Libya a few days ago by Dr. 'Usamah al-Baz, the Foreign Ministry's first secretary and director of President Mubarak's political affairs bureau, had to do with issues of common interest and developments in the peace process in the region.

The source emphasized that Egypt, proceeding from the Egyptian and Sudanese people's high interests, maintains a specific position in this regard, namely, not to push these interests into political differences. Thus, agreements for the exchange of commodities, goods, and trade are being implemented. In this context Egypt welcomes the visits of the Sudanese ministers concerned.

With regard to the degree of success achieved by al-Qadhdhafi's initiative in mediating between the two countries, the source said: "Egypt informed al-Qadhdhafi of its position and regarded his mediation as a good and cordial step, and it wishes his efforts success within the framework of seeking to clear the Arab atmosphere on the basis of the Arab League's principles and charter and good-neighbor relations."

Informed sources in Khartoum said that it was decided to hold an Egyptian-Sudanese meeting in Tripoli next week to clear relations between the two countries in response to mediation by the Libyan leader.

The sources also said that Staff Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunus, commander in chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, would attend the meeting together with Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Sudanese Revolution Command Council member, and Dr. al-Baz.

The sources also pointed out that the visit to Libya by Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council, a few days ago, which was not reported by Sudanese Government media, had to do with arrangements for the anticipated meeting.

Ghali Leaves on Tour of Zimbabwe, India, China

NC3007180691 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister for foreign relations, left Cairo for Zimbabwe this afternoon. He will attend the conference of African democratic socialist parties, which is due to be held next week to discuss current African issues and strenghtening cooperation among African parties in various spheres.

Dr. Ghali stated that the conference also will discuss the establishment of democracy in African countries and the link between democratic systems and economic development projects.

He added that he will later visit India to hold talks with the Indian prime minister and foreign minister on issues of mutual concern, ways of bolstering bilateral ties, and coordinating the Egyptian and Indian stands at the next Nonaligned summit, which will convene in Ghana in September.

Dr. Ghali said that he will then visit China to hold discussions with senior Chinese officials on Middle East developments, China's role in promoting the peace efforts, and relations between the two countries under the auspices of the new international order.

University Professors Demand New Constitution

NC2907154091 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 26 Jul 91 p 1, 2

[Text] Alexandria—Egyptian university professors have warned against continued rejection of attempts to carry out political reforms, on the pretext that circumstances are not suitable. The professors affirmed that continued rejection will greatly endanger the nation's political future.

The university professors welcomed the statement issued recently by the opposition leaders and national forces. They emphasized that their views are in agreement with those spelled out by the opposition party leaders, noting that this confirms a broader demand for political reform and reflects the masses' demands.

During deliberations at the university staff club conference yesterday, the professors stressed that the nation is in dire need for a new constitution to safeguard public freedoms and lift restrictions on forming parties and on issuing papers. The professors called on President Mubarak to promptly abolish the emergency law and extraordinary laws and courts. They said martial law lasted for seven days in Algeria, despite the events there.

During their conference, the professors proposed a pan-Arab draft law to preserve Arab waters and to confront Israel's covetous designs. They said that Israel will not leave the West Bank because 80 percent of its fresh water resources are there.

The university professors condemned the U.S. threat against Iraq and called for the destruction of the Israeli nuclear installations along with the Iraqi ones.

The professors rejected all exceptions regarding preference in admission to univerities and called for introducing new laws to ensure equal opportunity.

Mauritania

Oppositionist on Decision To End Armed Struggle

LD0108155191 Paris Radio France International Service in French 0630 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Excerpts] In Mauritania, the authorities announced amnesty for all political prisoners the day before yesterday. The decision has been greeted with satisfaction by the African Liberation Forces of Mauritania [FLAM], an armed black African opposition movement, which immediately announced a suspension of the armed struggle. For Ibrahim Abu Sali, the FLAM representative in Paris, the FLAM decision was made a long time ago.

[Begin Sali recording] [passage omitted] It is not a single decision. There are three or four points. The first is the suspension of the whole armed struggle, so as not to hamper the negotiations currently being undertaken by the Sengalese Government. Second, we are asking that if the Mauritanian Government had decided to implement this amnesty, we would like a guarantee on the return of political exiles. Third, we continue to demand the return of the deportees, the restoration of their rights as Mauritanian citizens, and the return of their property. Fourth, we demand the establishment of a national conference to work out a constitution guaranteeing the rights of all Mauritanian nationalities. We are also calling for the establishment of an international commission to investigate the crimes committed by the Maaouya regime, notably between November and December 1990. More than 500 people have disappeared. We would like to know where those people are. [end recording]

Interior Minister, Chief of Army Staff Appointed

AB2707165191 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1430 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] Here is a communique from the Presidency. By decree dated today, Colonel Ahmed Ould Minnih has been nominated minister of interior, posts and telecommunications. By decree dated today, Colonel Moulaye Ould Boulkhreis has been appointed chief of the army staff.

Morocco

King Hassan Meets With 'Arafat, Delegation

LD0108134891 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, flanked by Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed and Prince Moulay Rashid, this evening at the Royal Palace in Skheirat received Yasir 'Arafat, head of the state of Palestine, who arrived in our country today. 'Arafat was accompanied by Abu-Mazin, Hani al-Hasan, member of the PLO Executive Committee; Fatah Central Committee member Hakam Bal-'awi, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Tunis; and Abu Marwan, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Rabat. His Majesty King Hassan II held talks with 'Arafat. The talks were attended by the minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation; King Hassan's advisers Ahmed Reda Guedira and Ahmed Bensouda; 'Abd al-Hani Abu Talib, director general of the Islamic Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization; and General Abdelhak el-Kaderi, director of research and documentation.

'Arafat Departs Rabat 1 Aug

LD0108173691 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Excerpt] The president of the State of Palestine, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, left Rabat this afternoon after a visit to Morocco during which he was received by His Majesty King Hassan, may God make him victorious. This visit was characterized by the talks which he held with His Majesty. [passage omitted]

PPS Demands Liberation of Political Prisoners

LD3107041191 Paris Radio France Internationale in French 1830 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Text] The Party of Progress and Socialism [PPS] is demanding the liberation of all political prisoners in Morocco—the PPS considers it essential to give a boost to the process of democratization in a significant fashion.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Leaves for Trip to UK

EA0108205491 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers, this morning left for the United Kingdom on a (?medical) trip to last several days. He was seen off at the airport by Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the RCC and the Council of Ministers, and a number of members of the RCC and the Council of Ministers, as well as commanders of the Armed Forces and senior state officials.

Salih Receives Saddam Message for al-Bashir

JN0108172391 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Muhammad Mahdi Salih, personal envoy of leader President Saddam Husayn and minister of trade, has relayed a message from his excellency the president to Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC], on relations and the current regional situation.

The message was conveyed when Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the NSRCC and Sudanese interior minister, received Muhammad Mahdi Salih in Khartoum last night.

The personal envoy of leader President Saddam Husayn informed an INA correspondent in Khartoum that the message contains leader President Saddam Husayn's wishes of recovery for his brother Sudanese leader Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir and success and progress for the fraternal Sudanese people. He added that the deputy chairman of the NSRCC asked him to relay the greetings of Sudanese leader Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir as well as those of the Sudanese people to leader President Saddam Husayn and the steadfast Iraqi people.

Iraqi Trade Minister on Blockade Effects

JN0108152691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Khartoum, 1 August (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih has paid tribute to the position of the Sudanese Government and people on the imperialist-Zionist aggression against Iraq.

In a press statement made here last night, the trade minister stressed the Iraqi people's determination to confront, by all means, the hostile threats and economic blockade imposed on them.

Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih pointed out that U.S. imperialism has completed one year of all-out aggression against Iraqi children and the elderly, the effect of which has been more lethal than that of nuclear weapons. He added that 170,000 Iraqi children could die because of the economic blockade.

Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih's remarks were made after he had held a meeting with Sudanese Finance and Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Rahim Hamdi. During this meeting, they discussed consolidating relations.

Procedures for Constituent Assembly Under Way

EA0208110691 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] Brigadier General Hasan Hamadayn, rapporteur of the political committee, said that the committee has started procedures to form a national constituent assembly for the political system, adding that the procedural aspects have been composed and that the coming months will witness the beginning of the gradual establishment of the political system. He explained that this would be carried out in a balanced way in keeping with the pace of advances on the war and peace front and concerning economic issues so that Sudan may begin a new phase.

Cabinet Passes Civil Defense Bill

EA2807191691 Khartoum SUNA in English 1021 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Khartoum, 28 July (SUNA)—The Council of Ministers, chaired by RCC [Revolution Command Council] vice-chairman and deputy premier Maj-Gen al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, yesterday passed a bill on the Civil Defence Act 1991. The acting government spokesman, Foreign Minister 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul, has explained that the act stipulated formation of a national organ for civil defence to protect citizens from the dangers of wars and natural disasters, besides the country's economic resources and projects.

The law further organises the management of civil defence work including laying hand on public and private properties for the purposes of civil defence and mobilising the vital sectors to face up to the disasters. A

high council for civil defence, comprising representatives of ministries and departments, is to be set up, the minister added.

Meanwhile, the cabinet also ratified a bill on the General Education Act 1992 which calls for the creation of a national council for general educations. Sahlul said the council will comprise all experts and concerned figures in the field of general education.

He said the new law, which abolished the Private Schools Act of 1950, covers all issues related to this field besides private education in the country. It further stipulated the creation of a fund for public education and gave the government the right to supervise the private, non-government and popular education besides foreign communities' schools.

Cairo Paper Claims Officers Being Retired

NC3107140391 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 28 Jul 91 p 6

[From "The Brothers" page]

[Text] The National Islamic Front has decided to retire 368 officers of various ranks, including seven brigadier generals and eight colonels. Sudanese sources assert that the decision also affects dozens of first lieutenants who graduated from the military academy in 1990 and 1991.

"The Brothers" had earlier reported the Front's plans to dismiss dozens of Armed Forces officers.

Khartoum University To Reopen 28 Jul

EA2607151091 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] The rector of the University of Khartoum has decided that studies will resume in all classes on 28 July. In a statement he issued in this respect, his excellency commended the efforts by a generous group of citizens who ensured stability and the continuation of studies at the university, stressing the school administration's concern to pave the way for a conducive atmosphere for realizing stability at the university.

Kuwait

Anniversary of Iraqi Invasion Marked

NC0208105491 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] Today is the first anniversary of the treacherous and flagrant Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. In the early hours of 2 August 1990, the despot of Baghdad ordered his barbaric forces to launch an aggression against Kuwait with the aim of occupying it and [words indinstinct]. The treacherous Saddamist regime's forces overran the Kuwaiti border, disregarding all international values, ethics, norms, and principles. With this crime they violated the sanctity of neighborliness, brotherhood, and religion in the sacred month of Muharram. These forces began to steal and loot and to burn everything in their way.

He wanted to achieve his sick claims against Kuwait and its people. The free and courageous Kuwait people stood as one man against falsehood. They declared their rejection of the blatant aggression and their adherence to their land and homeland.

God granted the Kuwaiti people victory. Brothers, friends, and honest people in the world stood on their side until victory was achieved over the enemies and Kuwait returned free to its people. The despot of Baghdad was defeated, reaping only shame and disgrace.

We ask God Almighty, who granted us victory to have mercy on our chaste martyrs and to give them a place in paradise. We also ask him to bring about the release of our captives in the prisons of the despot of Baghdad so that they may return safely to the homeland.

May God preserve Kuwait and its people against any harm.

Minister on 'Infiltrating Elements,' Gunfire

LD0208124891 London KUNA in Arabic 1210 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] Kuwait, 2 Aug (KUNA) The Kuwaiti Interior Ministry today warned citizens against infiltrating elements who are trying to exploit the feelings of happiness expressed through firing rounds of ammunition in the air last night. The Ministry stressed that it will deter anyone who contemplates undermining security.

In a statement issued here, the Ministry stated that: "The Interior Ministry has noticed that some individuals fired rounds of ammunition in the air last night. This disturbed and caused panic among the secure citizens. While the Ministry appreciates the good-intentioned and noble motives which prompted these citizens to express feelings of happiness and rejoicing in this manner, it warns against the repercussions of this method because of the dangers it represents regarding lives and properties, in addition to the fact that this method opens up the way for infiltrating elements to exploit this situation and undermine public security."

The Kuwaiti Interior Ministry appealed to the respectable citizens to cooperate with it to achieve anything that can serve the general interest. It emphasized that it will take all appropriate measures to prevent a recurrence of what happened, and repel anybody who contemplates undermining security and order.

Prime Minister on Food, Agriculture in Diyala

JN0108164791 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi affirmed the importance of the joint responsibility of state agencies and citizens regarding the diagnosis of deficiencies and complications in administrative work. He added that they have a joint responsibility for coming up with sound proposals and solutions to cope with the negative effects generated by such deficiencies and complications.

While chairing a meeting in Diyala Governorate today, attended by Diyala Governor Khadr 'Abd-al-'Aziz, comrade members of the party's Diyala branch command, leaders of trade and mass departments and organizations there, the prime minister called for reducing red tape and bureaucracy in administrative work. Moreover, he called for reducing the time needed for completing citizens' transactions and introducing the employee replacement system to achieve accuracy and rapid performance and render the best possible service to citizens.

Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi touched on the efforts being made by the state agencies to secure food for citizens at this point in time and also on the roles of the Trade Ministry's departments in purchasing basic foodstuffs and selling them directly at cost to citizens through its marketing outlets. He affirmed that this method will be observed in other governorates to ensure proper flow of basic commodities and goods to citizens.

During the meeting, the conferees discussed in detail the quality of the services rendered to citizens by the state agencies in the governorate and the obstacles standing in the way of the state agencies. They also discussed measures that need to be taken to overcome these obstacles. Furthermore, they discussed aspects of land reclamation and clearing the waterspout networks and water canals to avoid a water shortage and increase agricultural production in the governorate. Discussions also revolved around amending some agricultural laws to help increase production and exploit the agricultural engineering resources to increase the agricultural output.

At the end of the meeting, the prime minister highly valued the honorable stance taken by Diyala Governorate residents, who confronted the American-Zionist-Atlantic aggression which sought to undermine Iraq's sovereignty and security.

Kurdish Figure Sees Allied Force as Threat

NC0208063291 Paris AFP in English 0619 GMT 2 Aug 91

[By Ceyhun Erguven]

[Text] Turkish-Iraqi Border, August 2 (AFP)—Autonomy for Kurds in Iraq would be only an "interim solution" on the way to establishing a free Kurdish state, a top Kurdish guerrilla leader said Thursday. Cemil Bayik, leader of the People's Army for the Liberation of Kurdistan, the military wing of the Marxist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), said that his organization was not opposed to Kurdish autonomy in Iraq. He stated, however, that a lasting solution could only come through a free Kurdish state or the establishment of egalitarian federations in countries where Kurds live. "The negotiations between the Baghdad government and the Iraqi Kurdistan Front aimed at giving autonomy to Kurds in Iraq are only an interim solution," he said.

Bayik, 36, who often goes under the name of Kuma, was speaking at a PKK training camp in the mountains of northern Iraq. The camp serves as a site for training in ideology and military tactics for some 100 Kurdish guerrillas, including boys and girls as young as 12.

"Our goal is not necessarily to unify all the Kurds. If they wish to live with the peoples in their countries of origin, we will respect that," he said.

Accusing the United States of "manipulating the Kurds for their own interests", Bayik called on the U.S. government to protect Kurds living in Turkey. "If the Americans are sincere, they should take the same measures against the Turkish Government that they took against (Iraqi President) Saddam Husayn," he said. "We are ready for negotiations with the Turkish Government, but we refuse to lay down our arms before any possible talks," Bayik said.

He indicated that conditions laid down by PKK leader 'Abdullah Ocalan in February for negotiations with Ankara were still in effect. He said the conditions included "recognition of the PKK by the Turkish Government, official recognition of the existence of the Kurdish people in Turkey and the elimination of the southeast Anatolian local government," which is responsible for countering Kurdish guerrilla operations.

Bayik said that Turkish forces backed by Mas'ud Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party had launched a cross-border operation on July 22 against PKK training camps in northern Iraq. He said the Turkish forces were forced to withdraw after nine troops were killed, and added that another operation was carried out on July 27.

Bayik claimed that the allied protective force, deployed in southeastern Turkey for the announced goal of protecting Iraqi Kurds against government reprisals, was intended to counter PKK activities. He accused allied forces of transmitting intelligence to Turkish authorities on PKK operations and threatened to retaliate if the allies carried out military operations against the PKK.

Talabani: No Dispute With Saddam Over Karkuk

PM0108155291 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 31 Jul 91 pp 1, 6

[Bari'ah 'Alam-al-Din report: "Jalal Talabani Says in Interview with SAWT AL-KUWAYT: We Differ With Saddam Over Democracy, Not Karkuk"]

[Excerpts] London—Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, has emphasized that the Kurdistan Front, which comprises eight Kurdish organizations, is eager to continue its membership of the Iraqi opposition forces' Joint Action Committee and to continue attending meetings held by the opposition.

Answering questions put by SAWT AL-KUWAYT following his news conference in London yesterday, Talabani said: "We are members of the Iraqi opposition, and in this regard we deal with Iraq's problems just as as the other organizations do." He added that the Kurdistan Front will attend the Iraqi opposition's general conference to be held by the Joint Action Committee and will name its representative when a date for the conference has been set.

Asked whether this commitment will continue if the Kurds obtain self-rule, he said: "We will never sever our relations with the Iraqi opposition. There is no problem between us. We support democracy and the right of all groups to return to their homeland to take part in the elections and in the multiparty system."

With regard to the extent of the Kurdistan Front's confidence in Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, he said: "We believe in democracy as a means for reform." [passage omitted]

With regard to his view of the demand for a lifting of the economic embargo against Iraq, he said that this decision should be linked to the establishment of democracy and human rights in Iraq. The Iraqi people are entitled to obtain the medicine and food that they need and to rebuild their country.

With regard to the present situation in Iraq, Talabani said that the cease-fire between the Army and the Kurds is still valid, but the situation requires swift international resolutions to supply the people with food, medicine, and other essentials. [passage omitted]

At the news conference which he gave in a room in the House of Commons, Talabani said that the Kurdish people need protection so as to enable them to secure a final agreement with the Iraqi Government.

He added: "I believe that the British officials will perform their duty toward the Kurdish people. What I have heard from the British prime minister prompts me to say that I am confident that they will provide us with protection."

He said the coalition forces will remain in southern Turkey as long as there is no democracy in Iraq, and this is what the Kurdish forces are seeking to achieve in their negotiations with Baghdad.

He said that the obstacle to the agreement with Baghdad is not the future of Karkuk, but the application of democracy to all Iraqis in all areas. "By democracy we mean separating rule from the ruling party; implementing party pluralism, impartial elections, and freedom of the press; establishing free unions; ending the ruling party's monopoly of power; and holding elections under the supervision of a UN or European Parliament committee.

Soviet Parliamentarians Urge End of Sanctions

JN0108111791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Aug (INA)—Several members of the Soviet Soyuz parliamentary bloc have called for lifting the unjust economic blockade against Iraq and providing urgent assistance to the country.

In statements to AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, they stressed that world public opinion, and the Soviet people in particular, is aware of all the tricks and lies of the Western governments and their false concern about human rights.

Mr. Yevgeniy Kogan, deputy speaker of the Supreme Soviet and alternate chairman of the Soyuz bloc [name and title as received], said his movement is preparing public opinion for and pressing the Soviet Government into ending and exposing the Western and U.S. propaganda about the situation of the Iraqi people with a view to breaking the unjust blockade and providing the necessary aid to the Iraqis.

He said the delegation saw the aftermath of the brutal U.S. destruction, which shows the extent of U.S. hatred toward a peaceful people with an ancient civilization.

Meet With Assembly Speaker

JN0108134591 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 1, INA—Mr Sa'di Mahdi Salih speaker of the National Assembly has lauded the positive stands adopted by the Soviet Soyuz bloc in the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and its continued endeavours for disclosing wicked intentions of the United States in continuing the economic embargo on Iraq.

In a meeting with the Soyuz delegation headed by Mr Yevgeniy Kogan Mr Salih confirmed that the United States and some European states had turned the slogans of democracy, freedom and human rights into a cover to pass overt aggressive intentions.

He added that the United States and its allies had used these slogans and covers as a curtain to launch their aggression on Iraq and continue in imposing the unfair economic blockade on the people of Iraq despite Iraq's acceptance of all Security Council resolutions.

On his part, Mr Kogan said that the visit to Iraq came within an urgent desire to members of the Soyuz bloc to observe and get acquainted with size of destruction inflicted on Iraq as a result of the U.S-led aggression and the constant efforts for lifting the unjust blockade and to render help in the march on reconstruction in Iraq.

During the meeting prospects of cooperation for cementing parliamentary ties between the Iraqi National Assembly and the Soviet parliament were reviewed besides exchanging view points on the international situation in the world.

Joint Talks Begin

JN0108163491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1428 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Aug (INA)—Parliamentary talks began here today between a delegation from the Iraqi National Assembly and a delegation of the Soviet Soyuz parliamentary bloc of the Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The National Assembly delegation was led by the chairman of the Arab and International Affairs Committee, while the Soviet delegation was led by Yevgeniy Kogan, member of the Soyuz bloc's presidency and deputy of the Supreme Soviet Presidium [name and title as received].

The chairman of the Arab and International Affairs Committee of the Iraqi National Assembly appreciated the Soyuz bloc's support during the aggression. He valued the bloc's calls for lifting the economic blockade imposed on Iraq.

As for Yevgeniy Kogan, head of the Soviet parliamentary delegation, he expressed the desire and readiness of Soviet experts and technicians to return to Iraq to take part in rebuilding what the aggressors destroyed. He also affirmed the determination of the Soyuz bloc's parliamentarians to continue their effective efforts and play their role through the Supreme Soviet Presidium to lift the economic blockade, which is used by the United States to weaken Iraq and its people and undermine their endeavors.

During the talks, which were attended by a number of Iraqi and Soviet parliamentarians, the two delegations discussed aspects of bilateral cooperation with a view to enhancing parliamentary ties. They also discussed means of developing and consolidating these ties.

Sudanese Minister Meets Industry Minister

JN0108190991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Aug (INA)—Minister of Industry and Minerals Lieutenant General 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di met with Sudanese Culture and Information Minister 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad this evening.

The minister briefed the guest on the march of reconstruction currently under way in the industrial sector in Iraq and also on the magnitude of the damage caused by the American-Zionist-Atlantic aggression. He referred to the Iraqis' enthusiasm and determination to overcome all difficulties, reconstruct what the aggressors destroyed, and continue industrial progress in all fields.

The minister affirmed that the capabilities and expertise of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals in the fields of radio and television production and electronic industries will be placed at the disposal of the brotherly Sudanese people. He added that the Ministry of Industry and Minerals is ready to receive a technical delegation representing the Ministry of Industry in the Republic of Sudan to discuss means of enhancing cooperation between in all fields, particularly the textile and paper industries and in raw materials.

The Sudanese minister of culture and information asserted that mutual cooperation and the exchange of technical expertise is the only way to achieve common objectives and confront the imperialist hegemony being imposed on the Arab nation by colonialist countries.

Paper Reacts to Iranian Vice President's Remarks

JN0108134291 Baghdad INA in English 1235 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, Aug.1, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, called on Iran to abandon maneuvering and prove its credibility and serious willingness to improve relations with Iraq, urging it to give up its overt attempts to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs and turn from its worn-out policy.

Commenting on Iranian Vice-President Hasan Habibi's statements that Iran would welcome any step Iraq might make to improve bilateral relation the daily said that irrespective of the motives and calculations that prompted Habibi to make such a statement at this particular time and whether or not he was sincere in what he said, the essential fact was that Iran was the only part responsible for straining these relations.

The daily stressed Iraq's principled stance towards establishing relations with Iran which reflected Iraq's goodwill even during the 8-year war, referring to the initiatives Iraq had taken since the announcement of cease-fire in August 1988.

AL-THAWRAH held Iran fully responsible for damaging bilateral relations, elaborating that since the beginning of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression, Iran had been acting in a manner that unmasked its ill intentions and proved its involvement in the imperialist conspiracy of aggression.

It added that the record of the Iranian regime during and after the aggression was rife with dubious hostile practices and stances, citing its attempts to send saboteurs and agents into Iraq with the aim of fomenting civil unrest as an evidence.

The paper pointed out that Iran had undertaken the task of implementing the second chapter of the conspiracy, the matter that would necessarily mean that it should be the one to take the first step towards improving relations.

It made it clear that Iran was still holding 30 thousand Iraqi prisoners of war (POW's), registered at the International Committee of the Red Cross in violation of the 3rd Geneva convention and confirmed that Iraq had released all Iranian POW's, though Habibi claimed that 5 thousand Iranian POW's had not returned yet.

The paper concluded its commentary by saying that if the Iranian regime was serious in its willingness for better relations with Iraq, then it should turn this willingness into actions, because Iraq could never allow making the issue of relations an object of maneuvering, for it believed that statements alone could not develop relations.

Revolutionary Committees Statement on Operations

NC0108082691 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Statement issued by the Uprising Revolutionary Committees Command; place and date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. If God helps you, none can overcome you. [part of Koranic verse] Certainly, God said the truth. The heroic mujahidin of our victorious popular forces are still dealing their blows to the centers and positions of the corrupt regime. Their operations went as follows:

1. A group of our heroic revolutionaries, from the force of al-Khidr Ibn-Yazid al-Riyahiy, may God rest his soul, destroyed the equipment depots of the 18th Division of the 6th Army Corps in (al-Junhah) area in the Maysan Governorate.

2. Groups of the heroic popular forces attacked centers of the police, security service, party police, and Army centers. Scores of the despotic regime's henchmen were killed or injured in the attack. The mujahidin returned safely to base after accomplishing their mission.

3. Our free revolutionaries attacked a military point in (al-Qar) between (al-Jirnah) and (al-Dir). Three Ba'thist mercenaries were killed in the attack.

4. In [name indistinct], a group of the courageous mujahidin attacked a unit of the Ba'thist regime, killing or wounding a number of soldiers.

5. The popular forces waged a daring attack against the positions of the 2d Company and the 2d Regiment of the 804th Brigade of the 3d Army corps. The positions were destroyed and heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy.

Forward, our God-assisted soldiers, until victory is yours, God willing.

Shamir Announces Conditional Acceptance of Talks

TA0108151791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1504 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Statement by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem after talks with Secretary of State James Baker—live, in English]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: It is the sixth visit of the secretary of state here in Jerusalem since we are dealing with the efforts for the peace process. Today, we had a very serious conversation and discussion about the various remaining issues of this process, and I would like to say something in conclusion of this discussion. Since its establishment, Israel has sought peace with its neighbors. We have therefore expressed our readiness to enter peace negotiations in accordance with the U.S. proposal, subject to a satisfactory solution of the issue of Palestinian Arab representation in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and I will recommend to our cabinet to approve the proposal.

Sees 'Great Political Achievement'

TA0208104391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Following the yes the prime minister gave to Baker, heads of regional councils from the territories this morning rushed to the prime minister's bureau. According to the announcement issued by the prime minister's bureau, the settlers' representatives came to congratulate Shamir on his recent political moves.

In the meeting, Shamir said that there are cases of territorial dispute in the world that do not become a conflict that leads to war. I hope, Shamir said, that this will happen in our region. Shamir termed the agreements he reached with Baker yesterday a great political achievement for Israel; nonetheless, he warned that there are dangers for Israel in negotiations of this kind. When we see the situation around us, he calmed his interlocutors, it is clear that of the choices we had, we have chosen the best way with the least political risks, the prime minister added.

Shamir used this opportunity to address what is expected to take place on the political home front. He issued a call for internal unity in Israel and within the Likud movement. If there are differences, they must be examined sensibly and without loud squabbles. The Arabs must know that Israel is united, Shamir stated. He concluded with additional soothing remarks for the settlers: We will stand firm with regard to all the interests of the people of Israel, and we will work to attain peace.

On Expectations of Peace Conference

TA0108185691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik in the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on 1 August—recorded]

[Text] [Shamir] We have in fact performed a tour d'horizon and we summed up all the issues we discussed in the earlier meetings. Since the most important unresolved remaining problem is the participation of the Palestinians within the framework of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, we said that there is no point in discussing it today since we have agreements with U.S. representatives that there will not be PLO people, East Jerusalem residents, or people from the diaspora among the Palestinians in that delegation. The Americans have apparently not reached an agreement with the other side; therefore I said that Israel is prepared—in my view, will be prepared—to participate in the process on condition that that problem—Palestinian representation—will be resolved to our satisfaction.

[Sukenik] In other words, Israel is saying yes to a peace conference, but that not all the conditions are ripe.

[Shamir] It is on condition that that issue is resolved, and that issue is important. We must recall that it is important since if we are offered a solution to which we will not be able to agree it could change the whole picture.

[Sukenik] Despite the fact that the eyes of the world are directed at you, at Israel, to give a firm affirmative answer to participation in a peace conference?

[Shamir] I said yes, but on condition that we are satisfied that our interests are being protected.

[Sukenik] If you were to try to estimate the chances that a peace conference will be held, what would you say?

[Shamir] It is difficult to know. I assume that in view of all the efforts that the United States—with the assistance of the USSR and so many international elements—has invested, it will take place.

[Sukenik] If you were to try to sum up the expectations from that conference, what would you say can be expected?

[Shamir] It is too early to say; it is the start of an extended, serious, and complex process. By the way, we have begun to prepare a draft of a memorandum of understanding which will include all the issues on which we have agreements with the United States. Work will continue on it next week here and in the United States, and it will be part of the arrangement.

Agreement on UN Observer, Veto on Conference

TA0108174791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] Here is a brief update. The Palestinian problem is the only one left. The problem of the Palestinian representation is not simple. We still have to hear what Faysal al-Husayni has to say. The meeting tomorrow between Secretary Baker and the Palestinian delegation—if it is held—is important, as are Baker's expected talks in Amman. After all, the Jordanian delegation is to include the Palestinian representatives.

Two obstacles were removed: The silent, passive, neutralized UN observer, the one that will only be there; and the reconvening of the peace conference. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will recommend on Sunday [4 August] that the Cabinet agree to the participation of a silent UN observer in the conference. The other understanding is the one Foreign Minister Levi and Secretary Baker reached months ago, that the conference will reconvene for additional sessions only upon the agreement of all the parties, including Israel. Meaning, Israel will have a veto right and will be able to prevent the conference from reconvening if it refuses. This issue was also accepted by the prime minister, and he will recommend that the Cabinet endorse it on Sunday. He will call on the government to agree that the conference convene every six or nine months, but only if all the sides agree. As far is we are concerned, this means: only if Israel agrees.

Two Youths Held After Stoning Baker Convoy

TA0108153591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Stones were thrown at Secretary Baker's convoy at the entrance to Jerusalem. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the police detained two children, a 12-year-old and a 14-year-old, members of the Kakh movement. A short time before the convoy arrived, three youths, including Beni Kahana, the head of the splinter group that had quit Kakh, jumped onto the highway. The three were detained. The police continue to search for suspects in the stone throwing.

Palestinians Anticipate Meeting With Baker

TA0108193691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari]

[Excerpt] Following marathon consultations with the PLO leadership and a series of meetings by senior Palestinians in Jerusalem, Faysal al-Husayni is expected to make an effort to conclude his meeting with Baker tomorrow with an affirmative answer—just as Israel did—accompanied by their demands. Al-Husayni told us tonight that not only Israel, but also the Palestinians, have the right to say yes based on their understandings. He said their aim is to demand from Baker everything that can be demanded prior to negotiations. We are going to the negotiating table, he said, not to the gambling table.

One of the proposals is for al-Husayni also to demand a memorandum of understanding between the United States and the Palestinians, although he will not say so specifically—a memorandum which is supposed to include a clarification on how the U.S. Administration views the exit from the tunnel, not only the entrance, and makes sure that during the interim autonomy stage the Palestinians will have real authority. One of the participants in the consultations prior to the Baker meeting told us this evening: We do not want to play the role of the drone which fertilizes the queen bee and then dies. In other words, the Palestinians do not want to say yes, which will enable the other Arabs to attend the conference, without being assured that they will not be bypassed later on. Al-Husayni might repeat to Baker what he said in Paris to French Foreign Minister Dumas: You are talking to a dead man; a killer will still get me, but if it happens without an achievement in my pocket there will not be anybody to replace me along the path of a dialogue.

Al-Husayni and PLO spokesmen in Tunis at present insist on an East Jerusalem representative, representation for the Palestinian diaspora, and the appointment of the Palestinian delegation by the PLO. They are prepared to accept a formula which would permit anybody who does not want to give the PLO the right to appoint the delegation to shut his eyes.

There are those in the leadership of the territories who proposed in recent days to take the initiative and to advance with Baker at a faster pace than 'Arafat is prepared to take, but al-Husayni and the majority believe that they should be restrained and make sure there is full coordination. One of the speakers said during the consultations that 'Arafat cannot be considered a hero in winter and a rag in summer. [passage omitted]

No Comment After Meeting Baker

TA0208125591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1241 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] The meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Palestinian notables has ended. The meeting was held at the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem and lasted for over four hours. Baker left immediately afterward for Ben-Gurion Airport, while the Palestinians did not speak to journalists either.

Our correspondent in the territories Udi Segal reports that the talks revolved around the question of the Palestinian representation in the peace conference, with the three Palestinian representatives asking the secretary of state for clarifications and answers on this issue.

Possible Delegation Members Listed

TA0208083291 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Aug 91 p 3

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent 'Uzi Mahanaymi]

[Text] The Palestinian delegation to the peace talks will be made up solely of Fatah members.

Senior Palestinian sources in the territories yesterday said that if the problem of East Jerusalem representation is resolved, there will be five or six representatives from the West Bank and from the Gaza Strip in the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The sources said that the names would be jointly decided in Tunis and in the territories; the leaders in the territories would propose candidates, and the PLO would endorse them.

The following names were proposed yesterday as reasonably good candidates for inclusion in the Palestinian delegation:

Gaza representative: Dr. Zakariyya al-Agha or Dr. Abu-Ghazalah.

West Bank representatives: Radwan Abu-'Ayyash from Ramallah, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat from Jericho, Mahir al-Masri from Nabulus.

Ilyas Frayj could be chosen as a Christian representative, unless a more acceptable candidate is found.

All the candidates are associated with the PLO. The other movements will probably boycott the conference.

Faysal al-Husayni and Hannan 'Ashrawi, among the most prominent leaders in the territories, will apparently not participate in the delegation because they carry East Jerusalem identity cards.

Levi on Parameters of Joint Delegation

TA0208110891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0918 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Roni Daniyel and Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari—live]

[Text] [Daniyel] Good day, Mr. Foreign Minister.

[Levi] Good day.

[Daniyel] Will Israel be ready for any kind of compromise on the Palestinian representation?

[Levi] I would not like to indulge in guesswork and in the sport of conducting negotiations with ourselves, which has become so popular since yesterday. Everyone is holding his own private negotiations. There is full understanding between Israel and the secretary of state. He knows what Israel has undertaken to do and what he has undertaken to do. He must be given the chance to deliver the goods. That is what we agreed upon, and we wish him success.

[Daniyel] As far as Israel is concerned, the matter is all sewn up?

[Levi] As far as it is concerned, Israel has stated the parameters within which it considers the U.S. commitment to be solid, and we have no reason to think anything else.

[Ya'ari] Mr. Levi, I would like to ask you two small questions that, in my opinion, are not totally hypothetical. The first is: How would Israel react if it transpired that King Husayn decided to include in the Jordanian part of the joint delegation a man who has a lot of property in Jerusalem but has lived in Amman for the past 20 years and holds a Jordanian passport? Do you think that we would be capable of protesting against such an eventuality? The second question is: What would Israel do if it transpired that even after all the agreements, the Palestinians who participate in the delegation and the entire Arab world loudly assert that these people were nominated by the PLO?

[Levi] You are getting into tiny details, Ehud, and I really do not want to say things now that could later be interpreted as some sort of pressure on the secretary of state or an impediment to the process that he is working to promote. But just to satisfy your curiosity, I will say this: If the representation is decided by Jordan, and it nominates Jordanian citizens as representatives of the Jordanian Government and determines the function and role of each participant, then it is not Israel's job to interfere. The parameters of our reservations regarding the Palestinian delegation from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip have been agreed upon with Baker, and he has promised to uphold them. Nothing will be done counter to Israel's position and contrary to what was agreed with us.

[Daniyel] To continue Ehud Ya'ari's question: Whatever the Jordanians decide regarding the Palestinian component of the joint delegation will be acceptable....

[Levi, interrupting] No, no, no, no, no. Excuse me! Either you are incapable of understanding me, and I apologize in advance for this remark....

[Daniyel, interrupting] So we will give you the opportunity to clarify matters.

[Levi] The Jordanian delegation, not the Palestinian.

[Daniyel] Okay, now we understand that point.

[Ya'ari] Mr. Levi, what if the Jordanians decide that the man they appointed, perhaps a minister in the Jordanian Government or a member of parliament, someone who has lived there for many years but who has property in Jerusalem and whose family comes from Jerusalem, will be the chairman and official spokesman of both the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations. Will we also remain silent in such an event?

[Levi] I prefer not to answer that question. Israel does not have to agree or prepare formulas regarding a Jordanian Government representative who is appointed by the Jordanians.

[Daniyel] Mr. Levi, could this issue block the convening of the peace conference?

[Levi] Everyone knows that if the Palestinians insist on a representative from East Jerusalem along with the rest of their earlier demands, they will be throwing a monkey wrench in the works, and whoever does that will be responsible for the failure of the process. I hope, and am also convinced, that everyone knows what Israel will not be able to countenance.

[Daniyel] Mr. Levi, in your talks with the secretary of state, was there any mention of the possibility of some kind of parallel memorandum of understanding between the U.S. Administration and the Palestinians, perhaps through some Arab country? Is this known or acceptable to us?

[Levi] I would like to state that the understandings with Israel will be anchored, as agreed, in writing, and this is something that has been true ever since the beginning of the peace process, ever since the failure of its first stage with the government's collapse. I remember my meeting at the time with the secretary of state in Washington, and we are still working according to the same principle. Everything is aboveboard. Nothing is under the table, secret, or even vague. Therefore, even today everything that is agreed upon with us will be revealed and made public. Nothing will be done behind our backs without our knowing about it, and nothing contradicting previous agreements with us or against our consent will be carried out.

[Ya'ari] In other words, Mr. Foreign Minister, there could also be an open memorandum of understanding between the United States and the Palestinians, either through an Arab country or directly with the local Palestinian leaders here, with this memorandum being public knowledge?

[Levi] I am talking about what was agreed between us, and I do not know why it is called a memorandum of understanding and all sorts of terms. If it turns out to be a written and signed U.S. commitment, will it no longer be a memorandum of understanding? The understandings and agreements will be put in writing as a commitment to Israel. As for the other issues, I said that nothing will be conceded behind Israel's back, and nothing that contradicts these agreements or that Israel opposes will be done. I think that my Hebrew could not be any clearer.

[Daniyel] Your statements are clear, Mr. Levi. Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon this morning told us that the Israeli Government has made concessions all along the way and that the conference in question will lead to war. Sharon intends to vote against the proposal in Sunday's cabinet session.

[Levi] Well, everyone has the right to vote as he desires. I can only say that if anyone would have said one year ago that we could reach the accomplishments we have already achieved in the course of this process and these discussions, he would have been called a visionary or a dreamer. Positions that were always rejected in the past have been agreed upon with the United States and other parties. The demand that the process be a two-track approach, for example. In the first version of the process, known as the first initiative, we were told to forget about direct negotiations with the Arab countries, as this would be impossible to achieve. Israel nearly dropped this demand. Today, we have achieved it. We demanded that the treatment of the Palestinian problem be according to the Camp David accords, and we stood firm on our position until we got our way. There were all sorts of demands that we categorically rejected, and today there are no representatives from the PLO or from East Jerusalem. We have scored other achievements regarding the framework of the conference in our agreements with the United States. So I ask those who are opposed: What has Israel conceded? What has it given up? What position has it deviated from?

Israel's basic guidelines speak exactly of these things. The Israeli Government's original initiative stipulates precisely these points. We have accomplished the key things. Anyone who thought that we would not go to the conference even if Israel's positions were accepted did not intend to go from the beginning. In fact, Israel's positions as stipulated in all the Cabinet sessions and in the government's basic guidelines served as the basis for the process; therefore, I do not understand where all these prophecies of doom are coming from. Why should we create despair in the hearts of our own people, who want to see their government—this government—progress toward peace while standing firm on the essential issues? That is exactly what we are doing.

What is the alternative? I want to know; tell me. To sit and say no, even to our own positions? To announce that we had no intention of moving toward peace? To say that we want to create another Arab world according to our own taste? To make the impossible demand that everyone accept our positions in advance? I wish we could, but everyone knows that whoever presents things like that is contradicting himself when he asks the Arabs to come without preconditions. There has been a change; they have accepted this condition, so I see no alternative. What are the critics suggesting? That we sit and wait while the world decides and leads us, instead of us leading them? We will then long for the unprecedented accomplishments we have now achieved.

If we miss this chance, who knows if it will ever come again. Should we say that we are a nation unto ourselves and that we never want peace? I neither see nor hear any other alternative. When I hear such demands, I say: Never. The government never decided on such demands, and this has never been the Likud's way. The Likud has adhered to its positions. We must believe in ourselves. We have maintained understandings with the United

States, our position in the world is constantly improving, we are renewing relations with almost every country in the world, and we have not had to pay anything. We must believe in ourselves. If we fear the negotiations, then we have lost our way. We must confidently stand firm on our positions and bring the hope for peace to Israel's citizens.

[Daniyel] Thank you, Minister Levi.

On 'Understanding' With U.S.

TA0108160991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1512 GMT 1 Aug 91

[News conference by Foreign Minister David Levi outside the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem, immediately after the talks with Secretary of State James Baker, by Israel Television political correspondent Gadi Sukenik and Qol Yisra'el political correspondent Arye Golan—live, broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Levi] Between Israel and the United States there are understandings, and on Sunday [4 August] we will bring them to the Cabinet for approval. I believe we have taken an important step forward. The understanding between us and the United States has proven itself and has given us things which only several months ago looked like mission impossible.

[Sukenik] What about the issue of Palestinian representation, which is the main problem?

[Levi] There is complete understanding between us on that, and they will work on it. Of course, nothing will be done which does not have our approval.

[Sukenik] Will there be another meeting between you and Mr. Baker or Mr. Shamir and Mr. Baker?

[Levi] No, I do not think so. We have agreed on the principles. The Cabinet will have to have its say on Sunday. I believe we have taken a big step forward, and the most important thing is the understanding on issues of principle reached between us and the United States, which is positive and protected and is marked in the coordination between us and the United States.

[Golan] Is Mr. Baker leaving Israel now or will he meet with the Palestinians tomorrow?

[Levi] Tomorrow morning he will leave Israel for Amman.

[Golan] What is happening to the Palestinian representation? Is there an understanding on that?

[Levi] I said there is full understanding between us and the United States. Mr. Baker will work with additional elements. Nothing will be done contrary to the understanding reached with Israel.

[Golan] What will happen on the issues of the UN observer and the continuation of the conference—are those issues resolved?

[Levi] There are understandings between us, and they will be protected in a paper covering the basic principles achieved throughout the discussions and agreed upon.

[Sukenik] Where will the October peace conference take place?

[Levi] That has not yet been decided on; it will be decided after coordination.

[Golan] Where would you want it to take place?

[Levi] We will consult and the decision will be made in coordination and agreement with us.

[Golan] How do you view the solution of the still outstanding problem—on which Baker said work must still be done—that of the participation of East Jerusalem Palestinians?

[Levi] You are asking that again—let him do his work. The agreements with Israel are protected in an understanding. Nothing will be done contrary to those understandings.

[Golan] Sir, can we now smile?

[Levi] I have been smiling for months, but many did not. Now most can smile.

[Golan] There will, of course, be those in the government, like Sharon and Ne'eman, who will not smile.

[Levi] Let us not suspect anybody. Everybody wants peace, everybody is concerned for the State of Israel. We will continue to march forward toward peace while remaining steadfast on the issues vital to our state and our people.

[Golan] Are we not entering a process that will end in giving up territories in Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights?

[Levi] What are you now trying to do? You can sit at home and something might fall on your head. We are not deep into the issues, we have reached understandings, and that is what is important.

Arens—Peace Possible Without Returning 'an Inch'

TA0208072591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Ya'el Dan and Gay Zohar—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Zohar] What will the focal point of the talks be? Will it be with the Palestinians, the Syrians, or is one an integral part of the other?

[Arens] I think it is difficult to speak of a focal point. We are interested in establishing peaceful relations with each of the neighboring countries, and even if we cannot achieve this with every one of them now, at this stage Israel is willing to content itself with peace with even one or two countries. On the other hand, we must come to an

understanding and agreement with the Palestinian population of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and this is what we will do sooner or later.

[Dan] Mr. Arens, do you believe we can reach some kind of agreement with the Palestinians and the Syrians without returning an inch of the territories?

[Arens] I believe that is certainly possible.

[Dan] You believe it possible?

[Arens] Of course it is possible; however, it is up to them. It is not impossible and does not defy any law of nature.

[Dan] I am not asking what you hope for, but for a realistic assessment. Do you think it is realistic to expect an agreement....

[Arens, interrupting] You asked me if it were possible. I do not want to make projections, because it depends on the other side. The entire peace process and its slow progress over the past 43 years depended on the measure of progress in the Arab world toward a more realistic attitude regarding the State of Israel and toward an acceptance of Israel's existence and an understanding of Israel's security interests. There has been such a process. It is slow, and I do not think that it has been completed yet.

[Zohar] During the peace process with Egypt you expressed great reservations about the agreements....

[Arens, interrupting] I did not express reservations; I voted against it.

[Zohar] That is true. The question is whether you see Israel going to the talks with some constraints, such as a refusal to return territory, for example.

[Arens] Forgive me if I refuse to say anything about constraints or constraints ministers. I never saw myself as part of that gang. I voted against the agreement with Egypt because I did not think that we should have given up the entire Sinai Peninsula to reach that agreement. I do not think that there is any room to consider such compromises in the kind of agreements we aspire to achieve in negotiations.

[Zohar] Today we are marking the first anniversary of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Do you think that Israel should change its political and security doctrine in the wake of that war? In other words, after being hit by missiles from so far away, should we perhaps rethink our attitude toward territory as a factor?

[Arens] I am really surprised by this argument, which is sometimes voiced not only by people abroad but also by Israelis. Everyone in Israel knew that missiles have a range of not only 600 km, as in this case, but also of 1,000 or 2,000 km. Missiles are not new. Does this mean that from a security aspect, Israel can whittle itself down to a width of 20, 10, or 2 km? This is ridiculous. On the contrary, I think that the Gulf war served to remind us of the importance of territory, because had we returned to the 1967 borders, as various elements demanded of us—and sometimes I hear this demand from Israelis as well—we could have found ourselves facing the Iraqi Army in Judaea and Samaria, on the outskirts of Petah Tiqva and Jerusalem. I think that every Israeli understands that could have been an untenable situation.

[Dan] In brief, although there is still work to be done, do you believe that the Americans will eventually be able to eliminate the Iraqi threat against Israel completely?

[Arens] I do not think that we should rely solely on the United States; however, I think that it is a good thing that in the wake of the Gulf War there is greater awareness of the fact that the danger posed by Iraq and its attempt to arm itself with nonconventional weapons is not limited to Israel, but constitutes a risk to many countries, including the United States.

[Zohar] Thank you very much, Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

No Concessions on Palestinian Presence

TA0208050191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Mr. Minister, it seems that the question of the Palestinian representation is the only key issue still left unresolved. Will Israel be willing to accept a compromise on this issue?

[Arens] There is no room for concessions here. This is one of the principles agreed on with the Americans, and I assume that the issue will be resolved on the basis of this principle. We are not discussing compromises at all.

[Einstein] Meaning that on the issue of the Palestinian representation, the United States accepts Israel's firm stand that no representative from East Jerusalem be part of the Jordanian- Palestinian delegation?

[Arens] I believe that one of the greatest achievements of Israel's policy in recent months is the fact that it has been agreed in principle that the representation of the Palestinian population in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will not include PLO or East Jerusalem representatives.

[Einstein] The question is: What is the definition of an East Jerusalem representative? Over the past 24 hours, we have heard several suggestions, one example being a Jerusalem-born delegate who currently resides in Jordan. Is such a compromise acceptable to Israel?

[Arens] This is not a compromise. We will not dictate the Jordanian delegation, if it is composed of legitimate Jordanian representatives.

[Einstein] Meaning that on our part, we will not consider him a representative from Jerusalem?

[Arens] I will repeat: If the Jordanian delegation includes legitimate Jordanian delegates—that is, Jordanian residents who were chosen by the Jordanian Administration—we will have no reservations about this.

[Einstein] Mr. Arens, what would you tell your friends, including those around the cabinet table, who maintain that by its very agreement, Israel is falling into a trap?

[Arens] If indeed anyone claims that the attempt to attain peace with our neighboring countries is a trap, I must say that I find it hard to understand. This has been the goal and the task of Israeli governments over the past 43 years. I believe that one of the great achievements of Israel's policy is the fact that Arab governments are willing to hold direct negotiations with us, which they were not ready to do in the past. Naturally, this does not mean that we will reach an agreement. This is just the beginning of the road. Negotiations are not simple. I believe that calling it a trap is a mistake. It is true, however, that it is a difficult path. As we embark on it, we will have to equip ourselves with all of our talents and wisdom.

[Einstein] Mr. Arens, do you not think that, eventually, such peace negotiations will obligate Israel to make concessions, perhaps territorial concessions?

[Arens] Why should they? We will do what we believe is right. We will represent the interests of the State of Israel. If, for a minute, we were to consider the alternative—which presumably says that we are not willing to hold direct negotiations with the Arab countries—I believe anyone would understand that this would be a mistake.

[Einstein] You said before that this is the beginning of the process. At this early stage, are you pessimistic, optimistic? How do you feel?

[Arens] I do not believe that expressing passing emotions has any significance at the moment. I believe that we are aware of the fact that ahead of us lies a difficult task which will probably take a long time. Things will not be concluded within days or even weeks. We simply must be aware of the mission ahead and bring to it all our talents and wisdom.

[Einstein] When the negotiations begin and issues of substance are discussed, do you believe that this could lead to early elections?

[Arens] Look, elections are slated for November 1992. This is not so far away; it is just over a year. Therefore, I fail to see the difference between what is called early elections and holding them as scheduled.

[Einstein] Mr. Arens, today is the anniversary of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which was followed by the Gulf war. There are some who maintain that Israel's deterrence was affected because it acted with restraint and did not respond to the missile attacks. What is your answer to that?

[Arens] I would say that, first and foremost, Israel's strategic position has significantly improved following the Gulf war—not only because the Iraqi Army was defeated, but because today the whole world is aware of the threat of Saddam Husayn's regime and his race to attain nuclear arms. Do not forget that last year, before the Gulf crisis, Israel was almost the only one in the world who was aware of and who faced the danger. Today, the whole world, headed by the United States, is on our side. I do not believe that our deterrent capability has been affected in the least. Our deterrence is based on our military capability, which is great, and the Arab world is aware of it.

[Einstein] Defense Minister Moshe Arens, thank you and good morning.

[Arens] Thank you.

Sharon Sees Peace Conference Leading to War

TA0208051091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Telephone interview with Ari'el Sharon, construction and housing minister, by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Good morning, Minister Sharon.

[Sharon] Good morning.

[Einstein] Do you support the affirmative answer the prime minister gave Secretary of State Baker yesterday?

[Sharon] If I had thought that we were talking about a conference that would bring peace, I would have supported it. To my regret, this is a conference that will lead to war. I oppose the international conference with Syria for the very reasons that led me to support and help achieve peace with Egypt. In my opinion, this conference cannot lead to any peace. The Syrian question is no less important than the Palestinian issue, and required that additional measures be taken to preclude any danger to Israel. To my regret, such measures were not taken.

[Einstein] How do you see the scenario following Israel's agreement to go to the conference? Do you think it will lead to a withdrawal from the Golan Heights, for example?

[Sharon] Anyone who conducts negotiations, anyone who has any experience in political negotiations, knows that one does not concede anything without getting something in return, and one does not give without taking. These are the elementary rules of negotiations. The United States wanted us to say yes to the conference. By saying yes without getting our due, even on the matter of the Palestinian representation, we face the danger that we will not get we deserve in the future as well and that we shall again have to concede and compromise, because if we are given a proposal that is not to our liking and we refuse, everyone will accuse us of sabotaging the conference to which we have already agreed. What kind of

negotiations are these? If this will be the way negotiations are conducted in the future also, then the danger is tenfold.

Let us look at what happened. Israel said that it would not agree to an international conference, and now we are about to attend one, even without getting all the answers from the United States. Israel said that the intifadah terror had to stop before entering negotiations, and now we are entering negotiations with the terror activities going full blast. Israel said that Europe could not participate, but it is taking part. We said no United Nations, but the United Nations will be there. Israel said that there should only be a ceremonial opening, but the conference is now to have continuity. Only the question of the composition of the Palestinian delegation remains, after we have conceded on all the other issues without any pressure being exerted on us and without getting anything in return. It is easy to see how Israel will be unable to stand up to all the participants, whose positions are already well known to us.

[Einstein] Mr. Sharon, do you intend to vote against Shamir's recommendation at Sunday's cabinet session?

[Sharon] Yes, I will vote against it, because I think that we should have made additional demands. We have always said: without preconditions; however, the Arab states presented preconditions and they were met. Everything on which we conceded were Arab conditions which we accepted. Israel did not even make vital demands, such as a halt to the arms race, the dismantling of PLO headquarters and bases in the Arab countries, and peace with countries such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, which was the most natural thing in the world. We did not demand a solution to the problem of the Palestinian refugees throughout the entire Middle East or the start of some process of democratization in the Arab world. Actually, we did not demand anything; we gave in without any reason and in the absence of any pressure.

[Einstein] Mr. Sharon, do you think that your negative vote on Sunday will obligate you to resign from the government, or do you think that you can remain a member of this government which you contend has constantly acted counter to Israel's interests?

[Sharon] Well, I believe and know that a very large public understands well what a serious predicament we now find ourselves in. These people are rightly concerned about our existence and security. They are my partners in this struggle, and I am content with their support, which encourages me to continue my struggle vigorously. As for your direct question, I choose to wage my struggle in the way I see fit.

[Einstein] But you are not ruling out your possible resignation?

[Sharon] I did not mention any resignation. My exact words were that I choose to wage my struggle in the way I see fit and according to my beliefs, which is designed to prevent Israel from running the risks we are currently facing.

[Einstein] You spoke about a continued struggle. Do you intend to continue expanding the settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and even in the Golan Heights?

[Sharon] The expansion and establishment of settlements is not a one-man policy. On this matter I am merely carrying out the government's policy, as stipulated in its basic guidelines, and I enjoy the full support of the prime minister, who has on more than one occasion clarified that there is no connection between the settlements and the peace process. On the contrary, we believe that the stronger our security situation in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, the easier we will find it to achieve peace. We believe that the settlements are not an obstacle to peace, but rather a barricade against war.

[Einstein] Mr. Sharon, it is now exactly one year to the day that Iraq invaded Kuwait, the invasion that led to the Gulf war. Earlier we heard Defense Minister Moshe Arens say that Israel's restraint did not affect the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] deterrent capability. Do you accept this statement?

[Sharon] I expressed my opinion at the time. I believe that Israel made a serious mistake, and one of the reasons that we are now in this state of helplessness is a direct result of our behavior during the Gulf war.

It is worthwhile remembering that one year ago, as a result of the wrong assessments and the incorrect deployment of the United States, which supported Saddam Husayn for years, the Iraqi leader invaded Kuwait. Today the United States is repeating its mistake by cultivating al-Asad and pushing Israel into a very dangerous process. It is really difficult to understand how such a friendly and democratic superpower as the United States, which is still discovering huge quantities of weapons of mass destruction every day in Iraq—weapons it previously had no knowledge about—can turn a country like Syria, which is doing exactly the same thing, into a partner to a peace conference. These things must be remembered, especially today. We saw how wrong assessments led to a war that is still not really over. This is exactly the same thing: Syria, like Iraq, is a police state which is arming itself at a mad pace. We are talking about a murderous leader such as al-Asad, who runs a dictatorship, just like in Iraq. The United States is aware of this, but finds it convenient to hide these facts due to its own needs, just like it did in Iraq for many years and which eventually led to a war that is still not over.

[Einstein] Thank you very much, Mr. Sharon.

Eytan—'No War' Preferable to Peace

TA0208094491 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Aug 91 p B5

[Interview with Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan by Avi Bettelheim; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Bettelheim] The prime minister last week said that he has discerned a dramatic change in Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Did you also receive that impression?

[Eytan] No. I do not think that al-Asad has changed at all. This is no more than a temporary tactic. Even al-Sadat underwent no revolutionary change. Syria has no reason to reach peace with us. I am ready to meet with al-Asad and hear what he has to say. We will say what we have to say. If he wants to, he will continue the talks; if not, he can go home.

[Bettelheim] If al-Asad signs a peace agreement with us that even you would embrace with both hands, what are you willing to give in return?

[Eytan] I will not give any territory. If he needs peace, let him give me territory.

[Bettelheim] Excuse me? You want Syria to give Israel more territory in return for peace? That is really a joke, is it not?

[Eytan] If al-Asad wants peace, let him give us something for it. The fact is that he is unwilling to give up anything because he does not need peace as we understand it. Let us see him concede something. If he wants to improve the quality of life of his people and to stop feeling threatened by war all the time, let him give up the Golan Heights and additional territory in the area. I promise you that we will reject his offer and tell him: Thank you very much, but we will be satisfied with the Golan Heights, and we do not need anything else except for a few outposts. You can have al- Qunaytirah. If al-Asad agrees to these conditions, we will sign a peace agreement.

[Bettelheim] In negotiations between enemies, each side must compromise to reach an agreement. Where do you get the right not to concede anything?

[Eytan] I will pay with peace in return for peace. This is a very heavy and serious price. If the Arabs cannot make peace, they can at least not wage war. We want quiet, that is all. We have no interest in Syria; we do not need anything from it. Peace for peace.

[Bettelheim] Do you think that Menahem Begin made a big mistake in giving up the Sinai Peninsula in return for peace with Egypt?

[Eytan] A very serious mistake.

[Bettelheim] Why was it so serious? The peace agreement has held up, and there is no threat of war between Israel and Egypt. What damage did the peace agreement cause Israel?

[Eytan] I beg your pardon. How many Jews have been killed in Egypt since the peace agreement was signed? What do you mean by no damage to Israel? The people of Israel lost their economic capability by giving the oil fields away.

[Bettelheim] But there is no war between us and Egypt.

[Eytan] There is no war with Syria either, and there will be no wars as long as we remain on the Golan Heights, 50 km from Damascus. That is what decides whether there will be a war or not. If we withdraw from the Golan Heights, a war will break out immediately.

[Bettelheim] Why will you not give peace a chance? Perhaps you are simply afraid of it?

[Eytan] I am not afraid of peace. The current situation of no war is very comfortable for Israel. I am afraid that in return for peace, Tel-Qatzir will again be threatened. I have still not forgotten what went on before 1967.

[Bettelheim] What about the Palestinian problem? Do you not think that Israel's interest demands that a solution be found to this problem?

[Eytan] The Arab world must resolve this problem in Jordan or in the Sinai Peninsula. As far as I am concerned, they can set up the country with the most resources in the world over there. Any compromise in Judaea and Samaria is unacceptable to me. Anyway, why do we have to resolve the Palestinian problem? Did we create it?

[Bettelheim] And in the meantime soldiers are being shot and firebombs are being tossed at buses. Do you not think that we should find a way to stop the intifadah?

[Eytan] Three Jews were also stabbed in Yafo and Jews were hurt in Netanya and in Haifa. What do you want? Did anyone resolve the Palestinian problem when we were still inside the Green Line? Did anybody resettle the refugees? Nobody did. There was never any quiet because the problem is not Nabulus, but Ashqelon, Ashdod, Yafo, and Haifa. Everyone is sitting on Arab land; that is the problem.

[Bettelheim] You understand that peace with the Arabs will never be achieved under your conditions.

[Eytan] I want quiet. Peace with the Arabs means deterrence, not a worthless piece of paper.

[Bettelheim] The paper signed with Egypt is worth a great deal.

[Eytan] It is worth nothing. Look at how they behave toward us and what they say about us. Why must we constantly thaw out and warm up the peace? This peace is worthless.

[Bettelheim] This cold peace you speak of with such derision is worth a great deal to my mother, because she knows that there are no more wars with Egypt and her children will not be killed while on reserve duty over there.

[Eytan] Excuse me, but all the border infiltrations are from Egypt, all the arms smuggling is from Egypt. Your mother has every reason to be concerned with what is happening in Egypt, and I suggest you tell her that. A peace agreement never posed a barrier to war anywhere in the world.

[Bettelheim] Do you see any reason to call early elections against the backdrop of the regional peace conference?

[Eytan] I cannot make any predictions. I think that the elections should be brought forward for other reasons as well. The people must be given an opportunity to express their opinion on immigrant absorption, on employment, and on social problems as well as on political matters. Tzomet is ready to hold early elections at any time and will support such an initiative. [passage omitted]

Right Wing To Stay if Cabinet Backs Shamir

TA0108191391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, head of the opposition, praised the prime minister for the affirmative answer he gave the United States. Our party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran reports that Labor Party Secretary General Mikha Harish reiterated that if the government becomes embroiled in a coalition crisis his party would support it from without so that it can complete the peace process.

The NRP [National Religious Party] also praised the prime minister for his courageous decision and because he stuck to his principles. [passage omitted]

MAPAM [United Workers Party] welcomed the move. Knesset Member Ya'ir Tzaban expressed the hope that this time the Palestinians will deviate from their leaders' abortive policy, adopt a realistic approach, and not enter a dead end.

The right-wing parties will not bolt the government at the moment even if the Cabinet on Sunday endorses the prime minister's announcement on Israel's participation in an international conference. That is the situation following the prime minister's discussions today with Minister Yuval Ne'eman of Tehiya and Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi of Moledet.

The prime minister also conducted an extended meeting with Minister Ari'el Sharon. Our correspondent 'Azran reports that in the talks with the right-wing leaders Mr. Shamir made it clear that he does not plan to deviate from Israel's firm stand on the integrity [shlemut] of the state. Our correspondent adds that the ultimatum Tehiya presented to the prime minister will be voted on in Tehiya's Central Committee next week, but it seems that the decision to leave the coalition immediately will be rejected.

Right-Wing Figures, Labor Say Yes to Baker

TA0108180391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] In its weekly session on Sunday [4 August], the Cabinet will be asked to endorse formally the positive reply to Baker.

Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi, head of the Moledet movement, has said that he will vote against the proposal but will stay in the government. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir says that the prime minister will not find it hard to garner a Cabinet majority for a positive reply.

Labor Party Secretary General Mikha Harish said that if Shamir finds himself in trouble with the opposition to peace in his party and the extreme right, he will have the support of the Labor Party, as it has promised in the past.

Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Knesset Member Yosi Sarid [Citizens Rights Movement] said that after Shamir was finally convinced that there is someone to talk to, he just might be convinced that there is something to talk about.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1700 GMT on 1 August reports that "Minister Yuval Ne'eman of the right-wing Tehiya party says he will wait until Sunday's Cabinet meeting before making a decision on leaving the government. Ne'eman said he understood Israel's response to be conditional." The report adds that the "Golan Heights Settlement Committee has urged Tehiya leaders not to leave the government coalition. Eli Malka, the committee chairman, wrote in a letter to Minister Yuval Ne'eman that it is more important than ever that Tehiya stay in the government in order to back the prime minister's aim of peace for peace."]

Israeli Arabs Welcome Shamir, Bush Decisions

TA0208105791 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Aug 91 p 20

[Report by David Rudge]

[Text] Israel Arab leaders yesterday welcomed Prime Minister Shamir's positive response to U.S. proposals to convene a regional peace conference.

"We see this as a first step towards a new order in the Middle East," said Muhammad Zaydan, spokesman for the National Committee of Arab Local Council Heads.

Zaydan stressed that the prospect for peace was an "historic opportunity which the government could not afford to miss."

"We are at a crossroads, with one path leading to a new paradise and another down the road to more violence,

bloodshed and destruction," said Zaydan, who is also chairman of Kafr Manda Local Council in the Galilee. "It is clear that if there is no peace, there will be war in the near or more distant future."

His comments reflected those of other Israeli Arab leaders and council heads who said they hoped the proposed regional conference would lead to an international peace conference and an overall settlement of the problems afflicting the region.

They stressed, however, that the question of the makeup of the Palestinian delegation to the talks should not be used as an obstacle to peace.

The decision about representatives on the delegation should be that of the Palestinians themselves and their leadership, the PLO, and nobody else, Israeli Arab leaders said.

"It is inconceivable that one side should decide who will represent the other," said Zaydan.

He added that Israeli Arabs would doubly benefit from a peace settlement in the region. "We would benefit as Israeli citizens and as an integral part of the Palestinian people. From this point of view, the prospects for peace are more important to us, perhaps, than anybody else," said Zaydan.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 2 August carries a report by Muhammad Khalilah on page 3, adding that following the decision by Bush and Gorbachev to convene a regional conference in October, "the Arab Democratic Party, headed by Knesset Member Darawshah, issued a communique welcoming the decision." The communique expresses the hope that the obstacles will be overcome and that Israel will not persist in its stand "regarding the Palestinians' right to choose their own representatives."

[The report adds that "Shaykh Hashim 'Abd-al-Rahman, one of the leaders of the Islamic Movement and the deputy mayor of Umm-al-Fahm, said that his movement welcomes any step that helps promote a lasting and just peace." He called on the Israeli Government to "add Arab representatives to the Israeli delegation to the peace negotiations, because this will be beneficial for Israel."]

Press Views Outcome of Shamir's Yes to Baker

TA0208130391

[Editorial Report] All Israeli daily papers on 2 August carry editorials and commentaries regarding Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's agreement to enter negotiations, as expressed in his affirmative answer to U.S. Secretary of States James Baker. Shamir is praised for his steadfastness, but while some call on him to maintain this stand, others urge more flexibility. The comments also praise Baker's efforts, though some warn that the understandings reached need to be anchored in a written agreement. U.S.-Israeli relations are also considered to have improved in view of this move.

An editorial entitled "Baker Still Has Work To Do," on page 6 of Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English, says that Shamir's yes to Baker "is a measure of Shamir's tenacity and healthy understanding of the principles involved." The editorial states that "Secretary James Baker's perseverance, patience and diplomatic skill deserve nothing but admiration. It is to be hoped that his desire to bring about talks between Israel and the Arab states has not blinded him to the nature of Israel's adversaries." THE JERUSALEM POST therefore cautions that "it is important, too, that all the understandings between Israel and the various U.S. Administrations be put in writing and serve as a basis for cooperation between the two countries."

Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew, in its page 2 editorial entitled "Yes to Baker," seconds this demand. It states that Shamir's reply, although it still needs the government's formal approval, constitutes a breakthrough toward the convening of the conference. "At the same time, there are still quite a few questions left, in view of the fact that in its efforts to find a compromise that would satisfy all the parties, the United States is in the habit of distributing promises which sometimes contradict each other. It is therefore very important that a binding memorandum of understanding be signed between Jerusalem and Washington and that it include all the details concerning the convening of the conference and the direct negotiations between the parties.

"The issue of the Palestinian representation at the conference needs additional clarification. It must not be left in an obscure state where each side could interpret it according to his heart's desires." HATZOFE urges the prime minister, "who so far has represented Israel in a firm way, to follow this path without moving from it the slightest, because any such diversion might hurt the foundations of the existence of Israel and Jerusalem as its eternal capital." The editorial states that "even if we say yes to Baker, we must reaffirm that Jerusalem is not negotiable and that in the future as well Israel will reject Bush's formula of territories for peace."

In his commentary called "The October Revolution" on page B12 of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew, Moshe Zaq says that because the prime minister was not satisfied with Baker's remarks about the East Jerusalem Palestinian participation in the conference, "Shamir invited the U.S. secretary of state to Jerusalem not to enable him to hear Israel's 'aye' first hand, but to hear Baker's 'aye' to Israel's request from the horse's mouth." On the other hand, Zaq says, "Baker came to Jerusalem not necessarily to hear Israel's reply, but to receive 'Arafat's answer through Faysal al-Husayni. Baker wants to make sure that the PLO is not preventing the Palestinians from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza from joining the negotiations." Zaq calls on "the Israeli Government to be on the alert and closely follow the U.S. slips in order to avoid an

erosion in the U.S. commitments to Israel. A memorandum of understanding cannot be an insurance policy against unexpected stumbles caused by Arab pressure," Zaq states.

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew carries a page 2 editorial, entitled "Shamir Was Two Days Late," which views no further obstacles for the convening of the conference because any problems that are left "will eventually be solved through some ambiguous solution that each side could live with claiming that it has made no substantial concession." The editorial states that Shamir's government has wasted 18 months and brought us back to the five Baker questions, but "perhaps Shamir was not ready then for a positive reply." It adds that Shamir could have scored a broader international positive echo "had he delivered his reply on the eve of the Moscow summit, the way Syria did on the eve of the London conference," stating that from this point of view "Shamir's reply came a day or two too late." Although 'AL HAMISHMAR anticipates many obstacles further down the road, it says that "it is hoped that the Israeli public will not let this opportunity slip and, just as it made the Begin government sign the peace agreement with Egypt, it will see the peace process through to its successful end."

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew, in its page 2 editorial called "There Will Be a Filibuster," is far less optimistic. It says that the Tehiya party is wrong in believing that Shamir is falling into a trap. "The peace train, as the analysts call it, is not the Orient Express to Turkey, nor is it the Haifa-Damascus train. The most probable scenario is that the train is on a circular line, with its last stop being back at the same station." HADASHOT sees no reason for Shamir to stop playing for time. "It is reasonable to assume that the peace process with Syria—when there is yet no agreement to return a single inch of the Golan Heights, when Israeli and U.S. elections are to take place in mid-process—will last years. The conference will be the continuation of Baker's shuttle mission with different means. For the 'peace train' to leave the station, the very meeting is not enough; a substantive change is needed," it concludes.

Writing on page 1 of DAVAR in Hebrew under the headline "There Is Yet Hope for the Cynics," Hemi Shalev writes that "although the cynics, who do not believe that a Middle East peace process is at all possible, received a blow yesterday, they should not yet lose hope." He says that in saying yes, "Israel mainly safeguarded correct relations with the U.S. Administration for the next few months, including, or perhaps mainly, a positive attitude toward the Israeli request for guarantees to be made in September." Shalev says that after Baker managed to obtain Israel's agreement to the process, "U.S. efforts will now focus on the Palestinians, who will have to choose between making a concession on substantial demands—which will bring the Palestinian issue to the negotiating table—and insisting on their principles—which might leave them the blame for foiling the conference, or worse, lead to a conference leaving them out altogether." On the Israeli side, Shalev says, the United States has left Israel broad margins. "It promised Israel that it will not have to sit with anyone it chooses not to sit with, but it did not mention what would happen if Israel does not want to sit with anyone."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew carries a page A1 commentary by Yo'el Markus called "It All Depends on the Filling." He notes that Shamir is lucky. Shamir will have no problem getting his government to ratify the Israeli yes. Still, "Shamir cannot be compared with Begin. Begin promised al-Sadat the whole of the Sinai desert up front; Shamir promised nothing. The only promise he made was to his colleagues, according to which he does not intend to give back an inch of the territory we have." Markus adds that "when it comes to Greater Israel, Shamir is a tougher customer than Begin. There is doubt whether the U.S. guarantees would make him bend either." He states that the onus is now on the Palestinians, whose "dilemma is between settling for little or a conference without them; Shamir will not shed a tear in either case."

Although the talks will be a gigantic media event, "it all depends on the filling of this conference, meaning the way the parties deal with the negotiating committees which will be set up after the opening ceremony. It will be a long and complex process. It is also possible that Shamir and Bush will share an interest in keeping the talks over a slow fire and avoiding explosions in an election year."

A HA'ARETZ editorial on page B1, entitled "A Wise Decision," deals more with the U.S. angle of the process. It was made clear to al-Asad that the USSR will not support him if he attacks Israel, HA'ARETZ says, "but the fact that the United States no longer needs to fear the Soviet Union spreading schemes in the Middle East reduces the importance of the Israeli Army as a potential auxiliary force in case of a global war.

"We may rest assured that the United States will not forsake Israel to the mercy of Arab attackers; but the United States is not eager to go on arming Israel, the way it has done so far, to allow it to defend territories it occupied 24 years ago. The United States is eager to remove the constant worry that a war between Israel and the Arabs might break out. That is why it is so enthusiastic about arranging a regional conference to settle this bothersome dispute, which might get it involved in a conflict with the Arab world precisely because it has a moral commitment to Israel.

"We must take the wishes of this friendly superpower into consideration," HA'ARETZ urges. Another reason why Israel should accept the conference is its need to avoid ruling over 1.5 million people who do not want this rule. "The regional conference might give us the opportunity to separate ourselves from the Palestinians while reaching arrangements which will guarantee our security. We must grab this opportunity while expecting that in return for the territories we occupied in 1967, the

Arab world will reward us with a signed peace agreement. This must be our main goal," HA'ARETZ states. The editorial notes that it is hoped that the Israeli decision to say yes "would resolve tensions that recently obscured Jerusalem-Washington relations and that the road for the advancement of the peace process is paved."

Shamir Approves Hebron Hills Settlement

TA0208105091 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 2 Aug 91 p 1

[Report by Aharon Klein]

[Text] The prime minister and the defense minister last week approved the civilianization of the Nahal Brigade settlement Eshqolot in the southern Hebron Hills. Several families that have been waiting for this move for over a year in the Yatir Forest, south of the settlement, will soon move in. "All that is left is the technical problem of bringing over several mobile homes, but this will also be solved soon," a senior Hebron settler said.

According to him, settlers in the territories have been pressuring Shamir and Arens to civilianize the settlement for over two months. Shamir had rejected the pressure, but last week, following the defense minister's recommendation, he approved it.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 2 August carries a report by Shim'on Weiss on page 1, adding that "a plan to civilianize the Qala' Nahal Brigade settlement in the northern Golan Heights is being drafted by the relevant ministries." The report says that "the intention to civilianize the settlement is also linked to the political process, which is gaining momentum, as the civilianization of Qala' was not planned to take place in the near future."]

Shamir Aide Rejects Convening Likud Committee

TA0208091891 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Aug 91 p 1

[Report by Amir Neumann]

[Text] Yosi Ahime'ir, head of the prime minister's bureau, said yesterday that there is no need to call a Likud Central Committee meeting at present, even after the decision to give the United States an affirmative reply and convene the regional conference.

Ahime'ir made this remark in view of demands voiced recently in the Likud to convene the Central Committee in light of the fear of Israeli concessions on the Golan Heights.

According to Ahime'ir, the decisions made so far have a technical significance only; they contain no substantive decisions, do not contravene the Likud's stands, and have the government's backing. There is no point, therefore, in convening the Likud Central Committee.

Kuwait 'in Practice Halted' Economic Boycott

TA0208084791 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Aug 91 p A4

[ITIM report]

[Text] Kuwait has "in practice halted" its economic boycott of Israel since the beginning of the Gulf war, a senior official from the Foreign Ministry's economic department told AFP yesterday.

The official, who asked to remain anonymous, claimed that "one could speak of a practical cessation or slowing down of the economic boycott by Kuwait. Since the war, this country has encountered difficulties in boycotting U.S. companies which trade with Israel, after the Americans did so much for Kuwait and sent their children to defend Kuwait's freedom.

The official discounted Iraqi press reports claiming that the Gulf states had given Israel $5 billion.

King Husayn's NEW YORK TIMES Interview

JN0208075191 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has stressed that the Palestinians will represent themselves in any peace talks and that no party except the Palestinians has the right to choose the Palestinian delegation to such talks. His majesty said that the United States, the Soviet Union, our European friends, and all those concerned about a settlement in this region are doing all they can in this regard.

In an interview with THE NEW YORK TIMES, his majesty said that should any difficulties arise, the most we can do in Jordan is to provide an umbrella for a joint delegation whereby the Palestinian delegation alone will have the right to talk, discuss, and make decisions about anything related to Palestinian rights. The Jordanian delegation will exercise the same right when the matter concerns Jordanian affairs.

His majesty added: The third dimension of the problem will be the regional dimension, which, I believe, is of concern not only to the minority, but to all. I can give you an example to explain the facts of the situation concerning what happened in the recent past. Since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, we now have more than 250,000 returnees. And throughout the long years of deadlock, Israel has expelled many Palestinians from the occupied territories and from Israel, and treated them as subhumans. In broader terms, this Israeli act against the Palestinians applies to the region itself. The problem, therefore, is that everyone must shoulder his responsibility. The Palestinians should be recognized as people with human rights, whether in their homeland or in any other place. The Palestinians will speak for themselves, but honestly, I do not know what the mechanism is going to be. For our part, we are concerned that the Palestinians choose their representatives. No other side can choose these representatives, especially as regards the Palestinian-Israeli dimension of the problem. And of course, there are other issues that should be addressed.

His majesty stressed that our chief concern is the Palestinians in the occupied territories. But in broader terms, we are also concerned about the rights of Palestinians everywhere. If you consider the area of Jordan and Palestine, including Israel, and look at the present time, you will find that it is impossible for the region—in terms of available resources, including vital ones such as water—to absorb all the Jews that come from all parts of the world together with the Israelis, Palestinians, and Jordanians. This is objectively impossible. On the other hand, you find that the Israeli can be a citizen of another country, but the Palestinian cannot enjoy this right or privilege in any country except Jordan; among the returnees from the Gulf, some spent three generations helping to establish what exists there. From this perspective, I believe that the problem is more than a limited one of concern only to Jordan and the occupied Arab territories. It is a regional and international problem, and it is high time that it be solved.

About Jerusalem, his majesty said: East Jerusalem is an occupied land. This is certainly our viewpoint. Recently, I have heard proposals that appear as though inspiration or new ideas, when I have talked about them for years within the framework of what will ultimately be a solution to the problem of Jerusalem, the city which I always feel must be the essence of Islam and the symbol of unity of the followers of the three monotheistic religions. Likewise, it can be a joint capital. It can be the symbol of peace and unity of believers in the great one God. This currently appears as though a new discovery, when I have talked about it over the past long years. We can recall here that when the unity between the East and West banks was established in 1950, the parliament's decision stressed that the West Bank will be a trust until a solution to the problem is reached. This decision, on the other hand, means that the Jordanians and the Palestinians have shared everything and are citizens of one country until the desired solution is achieved.

Concerning Jerusalem that was part of Jordan, only two states recognized it as such. The focus was on the international status of the city. For our part, we have always said this is fine. But when we talk about the international city of Jerusalem, the question will arise as to what we are talking about. What are the borders of the city which is characterized as such? Is the reference being made only to the parts that were under Jordanian control, or to larger regions covered by the UN partition plan of 1947?

The two countries that recognized Jerusalem as part of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan at that time were Britain and Pakistan. The Arab world, on the other hand, called for an international Jerusalem. When we now talk about this probability, we naturally wish that this option could be fulfilled, but within a wider framework than the existing East Jerusalem. At any rate, the question of Jerusalem is complicated because of Israel's annexation of about one-fifth of the West Bank area under the name of greater Jerusalem.

His Majesty King Husayn stressed that Jordan does not believe in separate deals, but in a comprehensive settlement. He said: This is what we need. The question goes beyond Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and Israel. It includes the entire region and the whole world, if we are realistic. I do not think that anything can ease the situation, create balance, and renew world confidence in international law more than a solution to this long-standing problem.

Asked about reports that some on the Jordanian scene reject any political moves toward a peaceful settlement, his majesty said: People are entitled to express their views, and I believe that these ideas do not represent the majority in this country. But once again I believe that the ones who have the right to give a reply and whose opinions must be accepted and respected are the people

in Palestine. I believe that a few people are confused at this stage; they did not generally listen to the required debate on all options, possibilities, and complications. I hope that such debate will continue here in Jordan and prove positive in its outcome. If peace is aborted, we hope this will not be a mistake or a result of misjudgment on our part.

His majesty added: We have been surprised by the speed of developments, but I believe that we need the support, cooperation, and assistance of all well-intentioned people in this world, who can help us move. We need calm diplomacy and an attempt to create an educational process on the benefits of peace in order to limit existing gaps. There is also a need to teach the Israelis the benefits of peace and the possibility of living outside the walls of the fortresses which they have built and in which they live, and to teach them what peace means. Likewise, the Palestinians must realize the benefits that peace might provide for them when their rights are realized. The Arabs must also realize the importance of peace. We need help and efforts from everyone in the whole world, particularly the help that we ourselves can provide. Jordan is firmly committed to the cause of a just and permanent peace. It has always called for such a peace. Many ideas and suggestions that we hear now are echoes of what Jordan has been demanding for a long time.

Concluding his statement, His Majesty King Husayn said: I am among those who defend logic, reason, and the sense of responsibility by all parties for the sake of future generations in the entire region. I also believe that much talk at this stage might create obstacles and difficulties for progress toward peace. However, the purpose of all that is going on is to draw the parties concerned toward talks. Naturally, we heard what the U.S. President said in his speech to the joint session of Congress concerning Resolutions 242 and 338, the exchange of land for peace, the Palestinians' right to their land, comprehensive peace, and security for all. For our part, we are trying to make progress as best as we can on all these topics and subjects. If issues get moving, and I believe they [not further identified] are endeavoring to realize this, dialogue will lead to the cherished results. We have been encouraged more than once. And I believe—at least I describe myself as such—that I am optimistic by nature. We are now facing the last opportunity to avert a disaster and avoid despair, violence, and all the problems that might crop up if we do not deal with the basic cause of instability in the region.

'White Paper' Explains Stand on Gulf Crisis

JN0108122491 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Aug 91 pp 1, 22

[Text] The Jordanian Government has issued a white paper explaining Jordan's position toward the Gulf crisis and its unrelenting efforts to solve it within an Arab framework without any foreign intervention and with the aim of maintaining the unity of Arab ranks and preserving the Arab nation's resources.

The white paper notes that since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis on 2 August 1990, world attention had been drawn to the region as a whole and to Jordan in particular. Opinions differed on Jordan's position, and judgments were passed against it resulting in Jordan's being subjected to pressures reaching the point of punishment.

To explain the situation one year after the crisis began, the Jordanian Government issued a white paper explaining its policies during the various phases of the Gulf crisis between the summer of 1990 and early 1991. The white paper is supported by official and private documents.

The white paper, entitled "Jordan and the Gulf Crisis," will be published in early August and will include an analytical presentation of the documents, events, and decisions that made up Jordan's position and its active role during the crisis, given its close geographic position to and its social, economic, and political ties with Iraq, Kuwait, and the Gulf; Jordan's strong feelings about its affiliation with the Arab family; its traditional role within the Arab world; and its membership of the Arab Cooperation Council which comprises Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, and Yemen and of which King Husayn was the chairman in 1990.

The white paper presents a documented report on the activities and efforts by His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials to ensure a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis by pressing for an Arab solution to the dispute in conformity with the UN Charter, of which chapters six and eight stipulate peaceful solutions to regional conflicts. The paper also presents a timetable of the most important crisis-related developments and Jordan's reactions to them starting with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990, emphasizing Jordan's neutral position characterized by its endeavors to preserve a delicate balance between its respect for the UN Security Council resolutions and the need for a diplomatic solution.

The paper points out that the most important Jordanian effort to realize an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis was King Husayn's letter to President Saddam Husayn on 22 September 1990 in which the king reiterated Jordan's rejection of the occupation and annexation of Kuwait. The letter said that Jordan and the Arab states cannot accept the occupation of territory by force, not only because of the firm nature of this principle but also because complacency in applying this principle, especially in our region, would constitute a dangerous precedent which Israel would exploit to realize gains with all the repercussions that threaten Jordan's security and existence as well as pan-Arab security in general. The letter also noted the inherent dangers of the military confrontation and its repercussions on Iraq and the Arab nation.

The paper also shows that in his answer to the king, President Saddam Husayn expressed his readiness to accept either of two possible solutions: an Arab solution where the two sides sit together and solve their differences exactly as King Husayn had suggested during his visit to Baghdad on 3 August upon a request from President Husni Mubarak and the approval of King

Fahd; or a solution within an international framework, as proposed by President Saddam Husayn on 12 August 1990, emphasizing the need for an international peace conference not only to discuss Kuwait but to include the problems of Palestine and Lebanon as well—a proposal that was immediately rejected by Washington.

The paper shows that when King Husayn realized that his country's efforts to avoid a conflagration had failed, he addressed a message to the Jordanian people on 15 January 1990, saying that all doors to reason had been closed and all windows to dialogue and love had been shut.

On 1 March 1991, the king addressed a message of hope to the Arab nation calling for reconciliation. The speech summarized the various phases of the crisis from the beginning until the end of the war and the Jordanian Government's views. His majesty said: From the beginning of the first phase of the tragedy, our vision has been very clear. We realized what the situation would be if Iraq continued to occupy Kuwait and we failed to solve the problem by peaceful means within an Arab framework. We tried our best to contain the problem from the very beginning, but did not succeed. We were fully aware that we would pay dearly if we adhered to our pan-Arab position and freedom of decision, given our geographic position.

'Secret Muhammadan Army' Member Arrested

PM0108143291 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Jul 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "New Information About Secret Organization in Jordan"]

[Text] Amman—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the campaign of arrests carried out recently by Jordanian security organs against the so-called "Secret Muhammadan Army" [al-Jaysh al-Muhammadi al-Sirri] also affected members of the "Islamic Jihad in Palestine" movement, which is directly linked to Lebanon's Hizballah, which is financed by Iran.

Informed sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Jordanian security authorities seized large quantities of arms, ammunition, and military equipment from the home of a Secret Muhammadan Army member called Abu-Mujahid, at Bayadir Wadi al-Sir, west of the capital, Amman.

The sources pointed out that the arms seized at Abu-Mujahid's home included five Kalashnikov rifles, three RPG launchers, hand grenades, a rifle night sight for sniping and assassination purposes, and large quantities of military equipment.

It has been revealed in Amman that Jordanian security authorities monitored the armed organization's members and activities for over three months and arrested Abu-Mujahid before Ramadan.

It has also emerged that, although all these arms were found in the defendant's home, he still denies possessing this quantity of arms.

Furthermore, the names of the secret leadership of the "Muhammadan Army" are still unknown, though it is certain that a professor at the Jordanian University is the spiritual guide of this secret organization's youths.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the security quarters' investigations concentrated on interrogating several individuals on the basis of the confessions made by their associates, who accused them of being directly responsible for supplying them with the weapons that they needed for their armed activities, saying that it was one of them that supplied the nine youths with the arms that they intended to use across the cease-fire lines with Israel.

Hizballah Criticizes Decision on Peace Conference

NC0208060191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] Hizballah has criticized Lebanon's decision to participate in the international peace conference. Hizballah said that this step will steer Lebanon into the tunnel of international and regional one-upmanship and will freeze the issue of the liberation of the south, which represents the largest and most complicated issue in the region.

SLA Opens Fire on UNIFIL Troops

LD0108163891 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 1600 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Soldiers of the South Lebanon Army [SLA], opened fire today on Finnish UN peacekeeping troops in southern Lebanon. According to a representative of the UN troops, no one was injured in the incident. The SLA soldiers fired at the vehicle carrying the Finns near the port town of Tyre, which is situated about 75 km south of Beirut.

In a separate strike, unidentified Lebanese used a bazooka to fire at Finnish positions in a village near the security zone proclaimed by Israel in southern Lebanon.

Yesterday, the United Nations extended the mandate of its peacekeeping troops, the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, by six months.

Resistance Claims SLA Attack, Threatens Amal

NC0108171991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] The Lebanese national resistance has claimed responsibility for an attack against South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions. In a statement, the resistance said one of its units attacked the SLA command center at the Qasr Salim position in Kafr Falus with machine guns and rockets, scoring direct hits. The statement added that the unit returned safely to base and that Israel responded by opening machine gun and artillery fire.

Meanwhile, the SLA's radio has reported that an explosive device went off near one of its patrols. The radio made no mention of casualties, but threatened to retaliate.

The SLA radio also threatened today to uproot the Amal Movement, in retaliation for the Movement's operation in the central sector of the security strip last week, during which three SLA men were killed. The radio said that all Amal will gain from such operations is heavier retribution and preemptive strikes which may result in its being uprooted.

'Fundamentalists' Attack SLA Position 2 Aug

NC0208052991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] War operations continue against South Lebanese Army [SLA] and Israeli troops in the south. The last of these operations was carried out about 0710 today, when a group of fundamentalists attacked an SLA position in the Anan area. A clash ensued between the two sides, in which rockets and machine guns were used. There have been no immediate reports on the outcome of the attack.

Hizballah Claims Attack on Lahd Position

NC0208093791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] Resistance men carried out a new operation against the Lahd militiamen today. According to reports, a group of resistance fighters attacked an agents' position in Anan area at 0700 today. A clash involving machine guns and rockets ensued between the resistance group and the agents manning the position. The agents' radio admitted the operation, but as usual, failed to mention anything about casualties.

Hizballah claimed responsibility for the operation, and added that an Islamic resistance group carried out a daring operation against an agents' position in Anan area in Jazzin district at about 0700 today.

Meanwhile, the Israeli occupation forces continue to reinforce positions in the occupied border strip. The Israeli siege of Yuhmur and Dayr Siryan continues for the fifth straight day.

Foreign Minister Departs for ICO Meetings

NC0208110691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz left Beirut for Istanbul this morning as the head of an official delegation to participate in the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers meetings. The meetings are to start tomorrow.

In a statement at Beirut airport before departing, Minister Buwayz said the Lebanese delegation will raise the southern issue and aid planned for Lebanon. He emphasized that Lebanon's participation in the Middle East peace conference has nothing to do with the implementation of Resolution 425, or the end of Israel's occupation of part of the south. [passage omitted]

Shamir's Consent to Peace Conference Reported

JN0208054391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Occupied Palestine—[passage omitted] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday said he agrees to attend the Middle East peace conference, which the United States and the Soviet Union have called for convening in October. He said: We are prepared to enter into peace talks according to the U.S. proposal. Shamir said a solution to the Palestinian representation must be found, and stressed his rejection of a representative from East Jerusalem.

Shamir's statements were made to journalists following his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who arrived in occupied Palestine yesterday to obtain an agreement from Israel to attend the conference.

On his part, Faysal al-Husayni, director of the Arab Studies Center in Jerusalem, has said: If Shamir has given Baker the answer yes, but, then why are the Palestinians being asked to give a final yes during their meeting with Baker today?

Britain has welcomed Israel's acceptance to attend the Middle East peace conference. REUTER has reported that a spokesman for the British Foreign Office yesterday expressed hope that the obstacles that may confront the convening of the conference will be resolved.

Requirements for 'Objective' Mideast Peace Listed

JN0208060891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 2 Aug 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The Syrian attitude toward the peace efforts reflects the serious, sincere desire of the Arabs to achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, based on implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy, especially Resolutions 242 and 338. This position was demonstrated in the Syrian reply to President Bush's letter, which contained his proposals to launch the peace process. It was also demonstrated in President Hafiz al-Asad's talks with every international delegation or envoy that visited the region. Furthermore, it was demonstrated in the interviews his excellency has given to Arab and international media.

AL-THAWRAH talks about the basis for the desired peace. It says: The requirements to achieve peace and give it an objective content are provided in the principle of exchanging land for peace; in convening the peace conference, with the participation of all parties concerned with the conflict: the United States, the Soviet Union, the United Nations, and Europe; and in implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal and for enabling the Palestinian Arab people to exercise their inalienable rights, especially their right to self-determination.

U.S.'Credibility' Put to Test in Mideast

JN0108161791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Although the Moscow summit between Presidents Gorbachev and Bush has called for a peace conference in October, and although U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will carry out a sixth tour of the region to receive Israel's response to U.S. proposals, Yitzhaq Shamir made a statement a few hours before the declaration of the results of this summit and gave a response, which, we think, is neither strange nor new, because it is in harmony with Zionist ideology and Israeli ambitions. In his statement, Shamir said Israel has no land to cede or negotiate over. He said Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel, over which there will be no negotiations. Again, we say that there is nothing new in this response of Shamir's, except that in the previous instance when he rejected the U.S. proposals and refused to go to a peace conference, he was responding to the U.S. President. However, this time he is responding to the Soviet and U.S. presidents together, and responding to the Moscow summit that demands the establishment of peace in the region. Thus, he emphasized that Israel is avoiding a dialogue based on resolutions passed by the highest and broadest international organization whose existence, in the first place, emerged from the vital human need for peace.

Irrespective of Shamir's response to Baker's sixth tour, when the Israeli rulers persist in their intransigent policies, they only boost the international community's conviction that the only obstacle to peace in the region is Israel. According to statements by President Bush following the Gulf crisis, the United States vowed to work for a comprehensive, durable peace on the basis of UN resolutions, specifically resolutions 242 and 338, and on the basis of land in exchange for peace. The United States also proposed a peace conference on the basis of this commitment. However, every time a proposal is made, the United States gets nothing but rejection from Israel. The Arab parties, on the other hand, responded to the U.S. call. Syria considered the points listed in President Bush's letter, a basis for a solution aimed at establishing a just and comprehensive peace based on UN resolutions.

By word and deed, Israel has shown that it does not want peace and that the Israeli rulers' rhetoric about peace is deceptive and irrational and aims to throw dust in the eyes. Israel has never hoped for peace. It has never worked for peace. Rather, it was working for a Zionist scheme based on successive expansion to establish the Torah Greater Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile, and perhaps much more than that. On the other hand, the Arabs and Syria have always been the victims of Israeli

aggression and the Zionist scheme, which is supported by the big powers of the world. The Arabs have worked and continue to work for a just, honorable peace. They have cooperated with international efforts to launch a peace process in the region. This cooperation did not start with President Bush's proposals, but came much earlier than that.

Today, marks are defined and stands are clear. In the clearest time ever, the problem of the international community and the United States in particular is not with the Arabs, but with Israel. The entire world is now face to face with blatant Israeli intransigence. The credibility of the United States and international legitimacy depends on the launching of a peace process in the region.

Through its leader Hafiz al-Asad, Syria plainly stated that it is seeking a comprehensive and just peace. Its stand is very clear. It is not shirking peace, does not fear direct dealing with the new equations, and does not shrink before international efforts. Rather, it is proceeding full of confidence in self and rights in order to wage the battle of peace. The obstacle that constantly blocks the peace efforts and a peace conference in the region is Israel. Can the United States, which launched the proposals, circumvent this obstacle? Will Baker's sixth tour prove that, especially since U.S. credibility has been put on a very sensitive scale within sight and earshot of the entire world?

Israel Seeks To Use South Lebanon in Talks

JN0208062691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 2 Aug 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In its second commentary, AL-THAWRAH discusses the growing Israeli acts of piracy and its savage, repeated attacks on southern Lebanon. The paper says: By insisting on linking the issue of its occupation and swallowing up of parts of southern Lebanon with the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question, Israel is confirming a desire to reshuffle the cards and wield southern Lebanon as an additional card of pressure and extortion on the negotiating table of the peace conference, which the two superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union—have decided to host in October.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Lebanon, which has eliminated all pretexts used by Israel to continue occupying its southern parts, is in now in dire need of support in its battle to regain its sovereignty and liberate the south. The international community must confirm its credibility and support Lebanon and its legitimate government in its efforts to extend its control over all Lebanese territories, up to the internationally recognized borders with occupied Palestine. It must also force Israel to immediately and unconditionally withdraw from Jazzin and the occupied border strip in implementation of UN Security Council Resolution

Afghanistan

Reportage on Fighting in Jalalabad

BK0108133091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1300 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have recently attacked Jalalabad with heavy weapons. Reports say the mujahidin fired rockets at Jalalabad Airport and other military installations. Electricity supply to the city was disrupted due to the attack. Another report says a MIG fighter of the Kabul regime, which was bombing localities near Jalalabad (?camp), was shot down by mujahidin. Six civilians were killed and 15 injured due to the bombing. The mujahidin are also reported to have blocked Kabul-Jalalabad highway at two different places.

Mujahidin Capture 20 Security Posts

BK0208035691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] It has been reported that, in Afghanistan, mujahidin forces besieging Jalalabad have captured 20 Kabul regime security posts. These security posts are situated on the national highways between Jalalabad and the capital. The mujahidin also launched a rocket attack on the Sarowbi garrison and damaged a large quantity of arms and ammunition. In another attack in this area, the mujahidin destroyed four tanks of the Kabul regime. In Jalalabad, Kabul regime planes shelled residential areas following the mujahidin attack.

5 More Posts; 25 Soldiers Killed

BK0208084091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of fierce fighting between mujahidin and Kabul regime troops in different parts of the country. Mujahidin are reported to have tightened the siege of Herat city and destroyed a number of regime's military posts. Mujahidin in an operation in outskirts of Herat captured five regime military posts and damaged five tanks. Twenty-five Kabul regime force were also killed in the operation.

Hekmatyar Calls Iranian Support 'Major Victory'

BK0108154991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1549 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 1 (AFP)—Afghan resistance leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar said Thursday that Iran's backing of a call for the ouster of President Najibullah's government signified a major victory for the mujahidin.

A joint declaration by mujahidin groups and Iranian and Pakistani officials eliminated "doubts and misunderstandings" about Tehran, the leader of the Hezb-e Eslami faction said in a statement here.

Iran, Pakistan and mujahidin groups said Tuesday after two days of talks here that they would consider a United Nations peace plan for Afghanistan but that there could be no solution to the 13-year-old civil war without the ouster of the Soviet-backed Kabul Government.

The U.N. plan calls for an end to arms supplies to the combatants and the establishment of a transitional government in Kabul pending general elections. Hekmatyar said President Najibullah's visit to the Iranian city of Mashhad last year and Tehran's rapprochement with Kabul and Moscow had created doubts, which the declaration removed in a "major victory for mujahidin."

The U.N. proposals will be "mutually discussed" within the framework of the declaration demanding removal of the "illegal regime" in Kabul, Hekmatyar said.

It is a "positive step forward that all the parties to the conflict have demanded unconditional removal of (the) Najibollah regime," he said.

A day before the Islamabad conference, Hekmatyar blasted the U.N. plan as a Western conspiracy led by the United States to hand over Afghanistan to Soviet control.

India

'Sufficient' Troops Deployed Along Border

BK0208090491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] The government has deployed sufficient troops along the line of actual control and the international border in Jammu and Kashmir to thwart intrusion from across the border. Giving this information during question hour in the Lok Sabha today, the minister of state for defense, Mr. Krishnakumar, said that barring some sporadic exchanges of fire there has been no attempt by the Pakistani Army to alter the existing status quo of the ground position in the Siachen area during the current year. He said our forces are fully trained and equipped to maintain the territorial integrity of the country.

Mr. Krishnakumar said 10,365 infiltrators were apprehended between January 1990 and June 1991, of which 464 were killed. He said special clothing, tents, and equipment have been provided to the troops in the Siachen area in view of the harsh climatic conditions and the morale of the forces is very high to face any eventuality.

Concern Expressed Over Nuclear Proliferation

BK0208045191 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] India has expressed concern at the proliferation of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles technology in its neighborhood. The annual report of the Defense Ministry says Pakistan is continuing to procure military hardware and technology far beyond its legitimate

defense requirements. It says the government is closely monitoring the developments to take necessary measures to safeguard the country's security. The report also expresses concern over Islamabad's continued support to militants and subversives in Punjab and in Jammu and Kashmir. It says to meet the multidimensional threat, the three wings of the armed forces are continuing their modernization drive. The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, says the center will give priority to strengthening patrolling along the Tamil Nadu coastline to prevent infiltration by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants. Mr. Pawar told PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] in Madras that he will discuss the issue with the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Miss Jayalalitha.

Parliament Welcomes Signing of START Treaty

BK0208091091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] The Lok Sabha has unanimously welcomed the signing of the historic Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, START, by the United States and the Soviet Union. Describing it as the first-ever attempt at reducing the strategic arsenal, the house in a resolution expressed the hope that the treaty will be followed by more far-reaching measures through multilateral negotiations and will finally culminate in the elimination of all nuclear and destructive weapons.

The resolution, moved by the speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, also endorsed the policies of the government of India in this direction. It called upon the government to take the initiative to usher in a nuclear-free world.

Politicians Reportedly Involved in BCCI Scandal

BK0208091491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] Members of the Rajya Sabha have expressed serious concern over reports of involvement of some politicians in the BCCI [Bank of Credit and Commerce International] scandal and have called for an inquiry by the government. Raising the matter in the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Kulkarni, Congress-I, asked the government to make a statement on the issue in the house. The minister of state for home said he would inform the finance minister and assured the members that the government will consider the request.

New Air Force Chief Interviewed

BK0108095991 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1545 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Interview With Air Marshal Nirmal Chandra Suri, new Air Force chief, by Inderjit Bahal; place, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Bahal] Air Chief Marshal Suri, I congratulate you on assumption as the commander of the Indian Air Force. How do you feel about it?

[Suri] Well, frankly, it feels very good, and this is not only from the point of view that it has taken me 39 years, four months, and 15 days to reach the top position in the Air Force, which is a dream of all pilots I guess, and that was the same dream that I had in my younger days, but above all, I think, it gives me an opportunity to serve my country for little longer and in the capacity that I feel that may be I will be able to contribute a little more so that I feel by the time I leave the Air Force, I have given my best to the country in every respect.

[Bahal] I am told you have about 6,000 hours of flying to your credit and you have been a chief flying instructor in a foreign country. How do you compare the standard of the Indian Air Force pilots with the Air Force pilots of other countries.

[Suri] I am very happy to say that the standard of the Indian Air Force pilots is not only comparable, but I think in many ways much higher, and the reason is this: as compared to many Air Forces we are battle-proven. As you know we have had an exprience in 1965 India-Pakistan war, 1971 India-Pakistan war, and there have been various other contingencies in which the Air Force has been involved. On one thing I am very proud that our Air Force is on the right track. It compares very very favorably with the best Air Forces of the world.

[Bahal] What you think are the challenges before our armed forces in general, and in particular before the Indian Air Force?

[Suri] Well, as you know the armed forces are there to ensure the integrity of the country. It is to ensure that no other forces, who are inimical to your interests, try and take advantage of you, and, that your country is in secure hands—that is the armed forces.

Coming specifically to the Air Force. Like the Navy or the Army we have the similar aims. We guard the skies. But we cannot surely guard the skies alone, and, therefore, everything that we do is integrated over here—that is the Air Force guards the sky, the Army the land, and the Navy the sea, and yet three of us put together defend all three dimensions.

[Bahal] The Gulf war has thrown open challenges of sophistication. How do you assess India's capabilities to meet the challenges of nuclear and chemical weapons?

[Suri] Well, as far as nuclear weapons are concerned, you are quite aware of the government's enunciated policy and, therefore we do not aspire to be a nuclear power. If at all, we look for skills in the peaceful means. Having said this, I would also mention that there are other countries which have in our neighborhood possibly such weapon systems, both nuclear and chemical, and those, of course, are things of concern to us.

[Bahal] Do you think Indian Air Force is capable of meeting the challenges of protecting the country and do you have any plans to increase the striking power?

[Suri] The answer at this point of time is that we are fully prepared to meet any challenge that comes our way. The second part of the question, of course, relates to the question of what really are the weapon-systems are to be inducted into our neighborhood. Based on the type that are inducted, that would obviously sway the balance in one direction or the other, and an assessment of that can only be made at that particular point of time. But very specifically and in unequivocal terms I would like to say that at this point of time for the threat that is available in our neighborhood, we are well prepared to be able to undertake any challenges that come our way.

[Bahal] What do you think will be your priorities to make the best of your tenure as air chief for the best of the Indian Air Force and the country?

[Suri] This is a very nice question. As you are aware and so are we very conscious of the fact that the country is now passing through a period of resource constraints. We, on our part, can only become deeply conscious of the resource constraints and contribute in every single measure to ensure that no wasteful expenditure takes place, that we review our means of (?tasking) in the Air Force, take a fresh look at the manning levels and the methods of working, and our approach to off-loading work to the industry etcetera, these form very important areas.

But having said this, I must also mention that the Air Force is a service which is technologically very superior and consequently the amount of money required by us in foreign exchange is considerable because lots of items required to be imported. It is because of this that my orientation would be that first of all before we think of procuring anything more, we are first to understand and to be fully appreciative of the fact that the weapon-systems that exist with us at this point of time must be optimized. It is only when I feel that we have optimized all areas of the weapon-systems, then and then alone, one would think in terms of bringing about a new weapon-systems. But having said this, I must also add that while we may try to do whatever is within our hands, it is the external security scenario that will really dictate as to what type of expenditure we are required to incur in the future.

[Suri] And, finally before we conclude, you may like to say something about the morale of our defense personnel who are working in very difficult terrain and conditions.

[Suri] This is another question that makes me very happy and proud to be able to answer because we find that the morale of the airmen, that includes all the officers, all the men that we have in the field areas [word indistinct] etcetera, their morale continues to be very high because we concentrate on the work environment, and we also ensure that at no stage do we loose sight of the welfare of our men. And, I think it is because of this that I feel confident that the with blessings of God, maybe during me tenure, I would be able to achieve what I am required to achieve.

Thank you very much.

[Bahal] Thank you.

Minister To Finalize Steps To Deal With Riots

BK0108090491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] The government will soon finalize a scheme to constitute a rapid action force to deal with communal disturbances in the country. The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, told the Lok Sabha during question hour today that details in this regard are being worked out to constitute the force. He said efforts are also on to exclusively rise, 10 battalions of CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force], to fight communal forces. Answering another question, he said the center is convening a meeting of some chief ministers who are facing the Naxalite [Maoist guerrilla] problem.

Criticism of Ending 'Nehruvian Socialism' Viewed

BK0208091591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0748 GMT 2 Jul 91

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 2 (AFP)—The first rumblings are beginning to make themselves felt here against the new government's crash attempts to drag India into the 20th century by freeing the economy of bureaucratic controls.

The discontent has surfaced in rural areas with protests against a cut in fertiliser subsidies and in political circles, including the ruling party, with emotional references to "abandoning Nehruvian socialism."

The reference is to the quasi-socialism introduced in the early 1950s by the country's first post-independence prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, whose name is inextricably linked with that of the ruling Cong,ess (I) Party.

Bolstering those policies over the decades, since then was a massive rupee-rouble countertrade with the Soviet Union which has since started unravelling with glasnost and Moscow's drive towards a convertible currency.

The main target of the criticism is Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, who in a series of lightening-fast moves last month devalued the rupee, swept away a maze of licencing controls and raised allowable limits for foreign investment.

He followed the decontrol moves with a budget that sliced fertiliser subsidies, raising their prices by 40 percent and jacked up the price of petrol and luxury consumer goods, hitting the country's growing numbers of urban affluent.

By this week India's powerful left parties had gained their breath and started threatening demonstrations to back their accusations that Singh has "sold the country

to the IMF," a reference to the widespread belief that the moves were made so that India could qualify for a massive IMF bail-out loan.

And this week even a faction of the Congress (I) Party appeared to be turning aginst him, accusing Singh of betraying the party's history.

Firmly behind the radical reforms are the country's stock brokers and share prices have shot through the roof in record celebratory trading since the policy was slammed through last month.

Other predictably enthusiastic backers are the country's chambers of commerce and industry and the NRI's—the millions of non-resident Indians whose remittances account for a sizeable share of the country's foreign exchange reserves.

For the businessmen the only fear is that the moves are too little too late and in statements on the policy, they have unanimously expressed the hope that the decontrols are only a beginning.

But in New Delhi, the Marxist-ruled state of West Bengal and in the rural areas of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka provinces this week the first signs of trouble over the policy were spreading.

In Andhra, farmers, reportedly backed by young Maoists and enraged by the fertiliser price hikes and reports that traders were hoarding a million tonnes of old stocks so they could sell them at the new prices, started burning fertiliser storage sheds and blocking road traffic.

In West Bengal party members announced a carefully planned state- wide agitation against the reforms and in New Delhi Friday the first rumblings of discontent within the Congress (I) started to surface.

Party sources and newspapers said a faction of the party reportedly argued in closed-door meetings that they could not let down their rural voters and the fertiliser subsidy cuts should be reversed.

The words they used, the reports said, were that they could not "betray their Nehruvian heritage," which the industrialists impatiently shrug off as an appeal to emotionalism at a time when in Manmohan Singh's words: "the world won't wait for India."

Indian news agencies reported from Washington and other centers where NRI's form a lucrative community, a mood of disgust and despair with politicians for not rallying around Singh to ensure the success of the reforms. But here the mood is far from clear.

Adding an almost accidental cutting edge to the rumblings, but a potentially dangerous one for a minority government, is a steep hike in newsprint prices, ironically dictated more by a Soviet failure to fulfill a countertrade newsprint obligation than by the new policies.

But analysts here point out that industrial policy as a whole did not come under fire at the fractious Congress (I) meetings.

They see, at least for now, Singh's main problem as surviving the highly politicised fertiliser subsidy debate that has already prompted an opposition walkout from both houses of parliament.

Iran

Velayati Leaves for Instanbul ICO Meeting

LD0208101291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, left for Turkey today at the head of a delegation to participate in the meeting of the foreign ministers of the member states of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] which is being held in Istanbul.

At the Tehran airport before his departure, Mr. Velayati said that the forthcoming meeting of the Islamic foreign ministers in Istanbul is one of the most important meetings which these countries are to hold after the Iraqi attack on Kuwait and the Persian Gulf crisis. He added that important problems of the world of Islam, especially the problem of Palestine, will be debated at the meeting. He said: The ICO must understand the present day status of the world in the best manner. It must adopt necessary and defensible measures against the superpowers bent on imposing their wishes. [passage omitted]

Daily on Ankara Talks, Iran's Views on Syria

NC0208083491 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Jul 91 pp 1, 11

[By Irfan Parviz: "Velayati To Attend Crucial Quadrilateral Talks in Turkey"]

[Text] Tehran—Vital talks on regional and security issues are due to be held in Ankara on Friday for which Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati will travel to the Turkish capital.

Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Turkish Foreign Minister Safa Giray will exchange views on the current situation in the region and security arrangements here.

The quadilateral talks in Ankara are considered in the Iranian capital and elsewhere in the region to be important as the controversy still prevails on questions in the region relating to security and the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace plan.

It is widely believed by seasoned politicians in the region and in other parts of the world that Iran is an important country for security in the region. Some even believe that the security of the region is impossible without the presence of Iran.

The controversy started with the Damascus declaration on 6 March in which the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council approved the 6+2 formula paving the way for the inclusion of Syria and Egypt, which are not littoral states of the Persian Gulf, in the security network.

Objections were raised to that formula on two grounds, including the one that Syria and Egypt are not littoral states and so their inclusion in Persian Gulf security will not help at all.

Half of the Persian Gulf shores belong to the Islamic Republic of Iran so without Iran "it is really impossible to maintain any security arrangement for the vital waterway across which over 40 percent of oil goes around the world."

First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati in a recent interview with TEHRAN TIMES suggested that a 6+1 security plan could function "quite satisfactorily." Besharati meant that Iran plus the (P)GCC [(Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council] should assume responsiblity for the security of the Persian Gulf.

Iranian officials, however, do not mind bilateral cooperation between the any two Arab countries, but they do object to a security plan engineered to the exclusion of Iran, which is the largest country in the region in terms of manpower and natural resources.

Persian Gulf counntries have had a series of discussions both bilateral and collective in recent days but no specific decisions have so far been announced as yet.

"Of course there are differences of opinion among the Arab countries because of a potential danger from the Iraqi side as long as President Saddam is still in power," one observer told TEHRAN TIMES.

He said that if the Iraqi situation becomes clear then Baghdad may also be included among the littoral states for the security of the region.

Dr. Velayati addressing a press conference on June 19 indicated that talks between Iran, Saudi and Syrian officials should be held to sort out these issues.

In that press conference Velayati said, "To further Irano-Syrian relations I talked to Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal in which we decided that tripartite negotiatons should be held for reviewing the regional situation."

Dr. Velayati visited Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj this year. During his stay there he held talks with Saudi officials on bilateral, regional and international issues.

Another equally important issue which may be included in the quadrilateral talks is the one on U.S.-sponsored peace talks which an issue has created confusion in Iran and elsewhere among the anti-Zionist countries of the world. [sentence as published]

Last week President Bush announced that Syria had accepted the U.S. proposal to sit at the negotiation table along with the Zionist regime.

Last week addressing a press conference government spokesman Dr. Hasan Habibi was reluctant to comment on the Syrian stand of the issue. He just said that he had no detailed information on the Syrian stand. Dr. Habibi also said that "routinely Syria should inform Iran on this issue."

Anti-Zionist circles are worried about the U.S. plots in this so-called peace plan through which Israel will be strengthened and leaves that country uncommitted on the fate of the occupied lands and the future of the Palestinians.

Another sensitive issue for the Muslim world in East Jerusalem, which Israel considerss its own territory...a fact which will never be accepted by the Muslims across the word. [sentence as published]

"Of course Syria has said that it has accepted the U.S. proposal conditionally, but there still are very many points on which clear explanations are needed from Damascus," another observer said.

He said that Iran and Syria will have face-to-face talks in Ankara and Tehran expects a clear response from Damascus in Ankara.

Similar expectations will be held from Saudi Arabia which also approved the U.S. plan and declared an end to the boycott of the Israeli goods, he said and pointed out 'of coure the Saudi regime has also made its proposals conditionally.'

"The confusion started when the Saudi regime said that a condition for the end of the boycott of Israeli goods is the stop to new settlements in the occupied lands," he said, adding that 'no word was aired about East Jerusalem or other occupied lands or details of the establishment of a Palestinian state.'

All here agree that the Ankara talks are important to bring regional countries as close as possible since such a desire can be traced at bottom among all participant countries.

Daily on Need for Active Iranian Role at ICO

NC0208094091 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Jul 91 p 2

[Editorial: "The Upcoming OIC Summit, a Turning Point"]

[Text] President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani received an official invitation from the Senegalese President Abdou Diouf to participate in the forthcoming summit meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). The Senegalese president's message

was delivered to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani by Senegal's visiting Foreign Affairs Minister Djibo Ka on Wednesday.

In the present atmosphere prevailing in international relations, which has brought about the end of the Cold War, there seems to be much more widespread grounds for close cooperations between countries which have common ideological and economic factors.

Undoubtedly the common source of religious belief among the Islamic nations, together with their potential economic and political strength puts them in a unique position of power on the world scene. Cooperation among the Islamic countries will not only enable them to solve many of their own problems but, in view of their vast geographical spread and the great number of their populations will make it possible for them to put up a highly powerful front on most of the international issues.

As a basic point of international diplomacy, and long before the occupation of Kuwait by the Iraqi regime, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been emphasizing the highly effective role the Organization of the Islamic Conference could play in resolving international crises in the Islamic world similar to the Kuwait issue.

It has to be admitted that unfortunately because of certain policy adoptions, (OIC) has not been very successful in its past endeavors. However, and especially the experiences gained in the Kuwait crisis, have opened up new prospects for the future of the conference.

Under the circumstances the participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a determining ideological, political and economic power should undoubtedly be considered as a turning point in the history of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

It is, therefore, to be hoped that the upcoming (OIC) summit will not only result in commonly accepted resolutions to safeguard the interests of the Islamic countries and the world Muslim Ummah, but will also prepare favorable grounds for fruitful collaborations among Islamic nations with the ultimate objective of precipitating their economic and political development, and of solving their problems among themselves.

In view of the special significance of the upcoming (OIC) summit meeting, the Islamic Republic of Iran should have an active part in the organization and the deliberations of the conference, and should do its utmost for the orderly and effective arrangement of the future summits.

Yazdi Condemns Presence of Multinational Force

LD2907102991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Mr. Yazdi, head of the Judicial Branch, speaking at a session held today attended by branch officials, condemned the presence of multinational forces in the region, which he described as a move in line with the preservation of the usurper Zionist regime in the occupied territories of Palestine, and the interests of the global arrogance. He said: The regional countries, notably the Arab world, must be vigilant vis-a-vis the actions of the Zionist regime and the global arrogance. The head of the judiciary added: It is astonishing that the leaders of the arrogance continue to believe that they can examine and analyze issues and resolve the region's problems, as is clear from the Jerusalem issue and the nonobservance of the all-embracing rights of the Palestinian nation.

Concern Over Syrian, PLO Stances Viewed

NC0208085991 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Jul 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Arab Countries' Retreat—To What End?"]

[Text] While the peace conference according to the U.S. formula has not been convened, the Arab countries continue to grant concessions to the Zionist regime. In the latest development, Saudi Arabia has accepted Husni Mubarak's proposal to lift the Arab economic boycott of Israel in return for a freeze on the construction of settlements in the occupied territories by the Israeli government. Other Arab countries, including the [United Arab] Emirates, Qatar, Oman, and Kuwait, have been quick to follow suit, while for its part the Israelis have not retreated a single step from their previous positions.

All of this of course was only to be expected as the United States' new round of diplomatic maneuvers, which began after Hafiz al-Asad wrote a letter to George Bush, aimed exactly at such results. The text of al-Asad's letter has not yet been divulged, but it is easy to surmise that Syria must have exhibited a considerable degree of flexibility, for which Syria has not yet offered any explanations to its regional allies. In particular, Tehran is very concerned about the new political stances adopted by Damascus, and expects to be informed about the new Syrian moves by that country's top officials.

In spite of the unjustifiable optimism exhibited by some of the Arab countries, the Israeli regime is now being run by one of the most extremist, right-wing factions, and the positions adopted by that administration reveal the basic aggressive policies of the Israeli regime.

Israel's housing minister, Ariel Sharon, while rejecting Husni Mubarak's proposal (lifting the economic sanctions against Israel in exchange for that country's freezing the construction of settlements in the occupied territories), declared that Israel would pursue its policy of constructing settlements in the occupied territories for hundreds of years.

Faced by such pronouncements from the representatives of an extremist, right-wing administration, what do the Arab countries hope to gain by their step by step retreats?

And let us remember that the PLO leaders have also been following the same political path in the past three years. PLO leaders have engaged in a series of step by step retreats without obtaining any adequate guarantees from Israel, basing their actions on mere promises from the U.S.

Consequently, they have reached such a weakened position that they are no longer considered the nucleus of diplomatic moves for a peace process, and are forced to be content with a peripheral role.

In view of all that is happening now, it should be adequately clear that the United States is only pursuing the objective of forcing the Arab countries to retreat from positions they have adhered to for long years now.

Daily Criticizes Disarming of Lebanon

NC0208091991 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 24 Jul 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Disarming Lebanon—Who Are the Victims?"]

[Text] The Lebanese community is now a witness to the step-by-step implementation of decisions already taken in al-Ta'if. To draw a picture of Lebanon in the past one or two years and of what is to happen in the future would not go beyond the decisions taken in al-Ta'if. Middle East experts have now come to the conclusion that the decisions made by the al-Ta'if Conference are not irrelevant to similar plans concerning the Middle East.

One of the most conspicuous characteristics shown by the al-Ta'if Conference from the very outset was its attempts to lay the foundation of a government in Lebanon that could guarantee the interests of big powers and the Zionist regime. From the very beginning, nationalist and Islamic forces in Lebanon refused to accept a set of decisions taken by the al-Ta'if Conference on the future of their country. But in practice, such opposition failed, for various reasons, to make any change in the process of events.

No doubt that the need for Lebanon to have a powerful government able to rid the Lebanese people of 16 years of war and bloodshed is a fact to which nobody is opposed, but the point in question is that how such a government can be formed in place of a ruined system which initially has a contradictory nature. The rule of the Maronites over Lebanon was the main cause of civil war in that country because it paved the way for the Zionists to dominate that country through the use of force. In the course of the 16-year-long civil war in Lebanon, the Zionists' intervention was quite clear.

Rebuilding the Maronite government, isolating nationalist and Islamic forces gradually and eventually disarming them is a major issue that has continued. The creation of safe borders with the Zionist regime has been on top of the agenda in recent Middle East developments. Despite the complication of events happening in Middle Eastern countries, it is certain that the big powers have concentrated their efforts on getting the Zionist regime out of security stalemates. South Lebanon and the occupied lands are the two main centers that have made the Zionist regime vulnerable, and the reason behind such vulnerability is a type of struggle existing in those regions which has an Islamic nature and no formula has been drawn up yet to be able to curb it completely. South Lebanon is the hotbed of Islamic resistance.

Hizballah is the most important axis of the Islamic resistance in south Lebanon which enjoys the full backing of the people. The disarming of the Lebanese groups is taking place under conditions that there is no guarantee for the future of Lebanon. Experience has shown that arms alone are not determining. More important than arms is the determination of the Muslim people of Lebanon in preserving their Islamic identity and national sovereignty. It is on this basis that the resistance takes shape. A vivid example of this can be seen in the occupied lands of Palestine. The Muslim people of Palestine, despite lacking firearms, enjoy high combat capability to the extent that they have rendered the Zionist regime helpless despite all its military might.

Those who have carried out the decisions made in al-Ta'if, should not imagine that disarming the Islamic and national groups in Lebanon will solve the country's problems. These measures will be fruitless as long as the Zionist regime remains in south Lebanon and only the future will prove this.

The past record of the Palestinian groups in Lebanon is the main reason, among others, behind their tough and quick disarming in Sidon and other parts of Lebanon. Lebanon is the only country which has an armed and cohesive portion of the Palestinians. The strategy of the Zionist regime in the region and in the world level is to reduce the gathering of the Palestinians and scatter them in order to restrict their activities.

The conflict between PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Syria is another factor in disarming the Palestinians.

A precise evaluation of the events in Lebanon and Palestine draws a picture in which the victims are the oppressed people of Palestine and the sacrifice of forty years of jihad, epic, and struggle. But is this trend in the interest of the Muslims and the Islamic resistance in the region?

Daily Proposes Continued Sanctions Against Iraq

NC0208095991 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY in English 25 Jul 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Lifting Sanctions Would Only Help the Iraqi Regime"]

[Text] The United States is considering lifting some of the economic sanctions against Iraq in order to enable that country to earn enough revenues to buy badly needed basic supplies such as food and medicine.

Although no definite decision has yet been reached in this connection, still the fact that the scheme has been proposed in the United States under the present circumstances is of special interest. Undoubtedly the Iraqi people, especially the refugee groups, are suffering greatly from lack of essential items of nutrition and medicines, and this was pointed out in the report by the UN Special Envoy, Sadruddin Aga Khan. However, the situation is rendered unbearable for the Muslim groups of people who are opposed to the present Iraqi regime and these have been forced to take refuge in uninhabitable regions in marshlands, and also for the Kurdish opponents of the regime, by the fact that the government obstructs the distribution of the little supply of food and medicine which is available in the country among the beleaguered and refugee groups. In fact the Iraqi regime is using such inhuman devices as indirect means of destroying its opponents.

Therefore, removing some of the sanctions against Iraq, and allowing it to earn a limited amount of revenues to be used on food and medicine, would not at all help the vast groups of people who are against the government and are virtually living in a state of siege.

It is quite easy to foresee the uses to which the Iraqi government would put any new revenues it might get: It will buy food and medicine but only for distribution among its soldiers and supporters.

Furthermore, the Iraqi regime has been denounced by the world community as a criminal and transgressor of international laws and regulations, and for that reason it has been subjected to economic sanctions. Now to exempt a regime run by international criminals of some of its deserved punishments would undermine the validity of international laws.

Instead of slackening international pressure against the Iraqi regime, which will inevitably have the effect of strengthening that regime's position, it would seem that the wiser course of action for the world community would be to arrange for a scheme of distribution of food and medical supplies among the deprived and beleaguered people of Iraq under the supervision of the concerned international organizations.

Communique on French Parliamentarians' Visit

LD0108192891 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] At the end of a four-day visit by a French parliamentary friendship group to Iran, a joint press communique was released by the Iranian and French parliamentary friendship groups. In that communique, the need for continuous measures based on respect for the right of self-determination of peoples to create peace and stability in the Persian Gulf region was underlined. The parliamentary friendship group of the Islamic Republic of Iran referred to the future visit of the president of France, Mr. Mitterrand, to Iran as important for the expansion of relations between Iran and France.

French Delegation Departs

LD0108141691 Tehran IRNA in English 0555 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, 1 August, IRNA—The six-member French parliamentarian delegation left Tehran for Paris early Thursday morning concluding a four day official visit.

During their stay in Iran the delegation reviewed, among other topics, the internal situation in Iraq, and Iran-French relations in their various dimensions.

Before departure, head of the visiting French delegation Patric Devedjian who also heads Iran-French parliamentarian friendship group expressed hope that Iran-French relations would broaden in the mutual interest of the two countries.

The six members of the French delegation were parliamentarians with different political standing at the French parliament.

While in Iran the delegation met with several high-ranking Iranian officials.

Cabinet Meeting Discusses Various Issues

LD0108142391 Tehran IRNA in English 0515 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, 1 August, IRNA—Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari said at a cabinet ministers meeting here Wednesday that during the current harvest season the government had purchased upwards of 2.4 million tons of wheat from private wheat growers. He said the purchase was up by 0.5 million as compared to the previous harvest season for the same produce.

During their meeting Wednesday the cabinet also approved a regulation whereby ex-prisoners of war as well as invalid war veterans will be entitled to full social security and medicare benefits in accordance with other laws of the social security system prevalent in Iran.

According to another approval Wednesday the cabinet also exempted manufacturers of auto-parts from import tariffs on the components and parts which they use for manufacturing automotive and vehicle parts.

Paper Links Inflation to Government Policies

LD0108093591 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, 1 August, IRNA—An Iranian daily Thursday wrote that inflation in Iran indirectly originates from the government and called for an integrated plan to be followed by all government branches. The editorial in the English-language daily 'KAYHAN

INTERNATIONAL' said that one of the primary preoccupations of the government is how to control or at least slow the country's spiraling inflation. Regretting that the government is not realizing as much success as it would like, the paper wrote that inflation can have negative outcomes for the government including the loss of public loyalty.

"One of the reasons why the present government is experiencing problems in the economic arena is because of the fact that it is trying to erect a system on a previous one that in many ways was different from it." Stating that the previous government's economy was centralized and the present one is promoting a decentralized economy, the paper believed, "one can sense a kind of contradiction in the present government's words and deeds as far as the economy is concerned." It added, "just at the same time that it looks to be gravely concerned about curbing inflation, its affiliated bodies or branches announce—or sometimes act without announcing—hikes in the prices of their products or services."

Referring to periodic price hikes by many folds in utilities such as gas, water, electric power, taxes and municipality charges, the editorial said, "Some agencies, such as Tehran's municipality, seem to have misunderstood the plan and are on an inflationary course. The municipality's exorbitant charges act contrary to the wishes of the government. The same can be said about the Finance Ministry's taxing system and some of the foundations—which are viewed by the public to be part of the government but which are not regarded so by the latter to be so."

Therefore, the paper concluded, "inflation in iran indirectly originates from the government and not until an integrated plan is introduced and followed by all of its branches can the country have a chance of living away from it."

German Economic Affairs Minister Interviewed

NC2507194091 Tehran SORUSH in Persian 20 Jul 91 pp 6, 7, 8, 9, 64

["Exclusive" interview with Juergen Moellemann, German minister of economic affairs, by correspondent Kiumars Maleki in Tehran; date not given: "The Major Partner and Expectations]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Maleki] What do you and other high-level German officials wish to obtain from your visits to our country? Does your regional assessment place Iran as the political and economic center of the Persian Gulf and the Middle East?

[Moellemann] I think that Iran can play a key role in this important and sensitive region due to its valuable natural resources, suitable manpower, and sensitive geopolitical situation. [passage omitted]

[Maleki] Did you discuss the establishment and expansion of vocational and training institutes with Iranian officials?

[Moellemann] Yes. We are also discussing aspects of cooperation and collaboration in all fields, including the economic, industrial, environmental spheres, as well as in vocational training and energy. We have had a detailed exchanges of opinion on the subjects and I believe that this point will be the starting point for the improvement and qualitative changes in bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

[Maleki] Some unclear issues apparently cast a shadow on the constructive and positive atmosphere of these talks. Two major issues come to mind: First, the German refusal to resume construction of the Bushehr nuclear power plant; second, the construction of the chemical factory for the production of pesticides in Qazvin. These particular cases are mere examples of a more general problem. Has any solution been reached on these issues?

[Moellemann] Yes. Both of the instances that you have cited were discussed in detail in our talks with Iranian officials and we did attain certain results. Regarding the Bushehr power plant: In Germany, we are seeing changes in domestic policy that influences certain issues in our relations with Iran, such as the accident that took place in the Soviet Union....

[Maleki] You are referring to Chernobyl?

[Moellemann] Yes. [passage omitted]

I do not think that in the near future any new nuclear power plant will be set up in Germany. The German parliament is strongly opposed to the transfer of nuclear technology.

In addition, the structure and kind of reactor which was under construction and on which work was initiated in 1976 is not accepted anymore in Germany. I do not believe that we can export technology the safety of which we are not sufficiently confident. We Germans do not believe this is the correct way to work together.

However, this was a treaty [preceding word in English] in which an enormous sum was invested and we have arranged to set up a working group which will seek a suitable way to solve this problem without one party demanding the completion of the work or the acceptance of conditions which cannot be agreed to, by the other side. We should seek a just way to solve the problem which will keep in mind the interests of both sides.

[Maleki] Is it not possible to amend or update the Bushehr power plant with some extra expenditure? This should not be impossible in view of the prowess and ability of Germany.

[Moellemann] I doubt it. In fact, a main (opposition) front exists in the German parliament which opposes such measures. I mentioned this to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who said he had already discussed the matter

with the speaker of the parliament and had been apprised of the situation. The president told me: We do not want to create any problems for your government.

By this the president meant that he is aware that we will not be able to attain the required majority in parliament to continue the work.

This is not an issue confined to Iran; it is the case on every matter. This opposition is more an opposition on principle and is not confined to Iran-German relations but marks a fundamental shift in our nuclear policy.

We should look for an inexpensive and safe source of energy which does not cause ecological problems. We may have to find a totally new answer. This is the task the aforementioned group should perform. The group will also have to clarify the legal and financial ramifications of this issue.

[Maleki] Have any results been attained on the implementation of the Qazvin project?

[Moellemann] We believe we have found a way to clarify the modus operandi for the implementation of the regulations on chemical weapons as ratified in Geneva. Iran is willing to accept the supervision of the implementation of these regulations. The president himself informed me that Iran is not interested in having chemical weapons and is completely in favor of the ban on the production or possession of chemical weapons, something Germany adopted quite some time ago. [passage omitted]

[Maleki] Apparently restrictions have been imposed on the transfer of German technology to our country on the pretext of its possible use for military purposes. Why is that?

[Moellemann] Of course, restrictions in general do not amount to a complete ban. Rest assured about that. After we saw that certain German companies, few in number, helped Libya and Iraq manufacture chemical weapons, we decided that it was unacceptable for a small number of companies to jeopardize our reputation worldwide. This is why we want control over exports. [passage omitted]

[Maleki] In effect, any kind of technology which can be used for military purposes comes under such restrictions. Are not such restrictions and problems stemming from them capable of harming the expansion of industry in other countries, such as Iran?

[Moellemann] Of course, but the restrictions are not that severe. About 95 percent of our goods are exported just as before the restrictions were in place. We make the companies inform us if the goods they export are used for military purposes. If they are aware that their goods have military uses they must inform us. In fact, even in that case permission may be granted to export the goods but not if it entails any cooperation on our part with the military aspect. This would be a rare instance, however, but most of our exports are commodities with no military use whatsoever.

I am aware that products with dual uses are a complicated problem. We have about 400 necessary experts, officials, and employees to make a final assessment and decision on difficult cases. We hope that with the efforts being made in this department we will be able to expedite the decisions so that the time of the importers (such as the Iranians) is not wasted. [passage omitted]

[Maleki] Mr. Minister, I mentioned earlier that we Iranians have immense expectations about Germany, due to the longstanding and extensive relations between the two countries. I think this feeling is mutual. Certainly, you also believe that the real assistance for the expansion and swift, genuine, transfer of technology cannot materialize merely with talks, promises, and agreements. The side transferring the technology should have come to the conclusion and should believe that the other side is an important and strategic friend and ally. Does your country see Iran as a strategic friend?

[Moellemann] What you said is correct. Very close, traditional friendly ties exist between Iran and Germany. My visit to Iran is an indication of the fact that the two sides have decided not only to continue but to expand these ties as well.

Germany is Iran's number one economic partner. We want this relationship to continue in the future. The two countries also have an important status and role in their respective regions, Germany in the EC, and Iran in the Middle and Near East. This is why close and intensive cooperation between our two countries is becoming more strategically significant. Technology transfer and technical know-how [preceding word in English] should have top priority for all industrialists, companies, and executive officials.

I think that many firms, industries, and companies in Germany have realized that readiness for extensive and deep cooperation in transferring technical know-how is a precondition and a guarantee for the growth and expansion of economic relations. I am confident that our economic relations will become stronger and deeper in the future. [passage omitted]

[Maleki] You will be going to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia from here. Will you be discussing Iran and other related matters there?

[Moellemann] I have expressed my pleasure at the positive broadening of relations between Iran and the Persian Gulf countries in my talks with Iranian officials. We had detailed discussions with Iranian officials on a suitable regional security structure. I will mention my view in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia that without the influence and role of Iran in the region, security, freedom, and stability in the Middle and Near East cannot be attained. [passage omitted]

Afghan Leader Terms Islamabad Talks 'Positive'

NC0108060491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] A statement issued on the joint session held with the participation of Iran, Pakistan, and the mujahidin based in Tehran and Peshawar was termed completely positive by one of the leaders of the Afghan mujahidin, Sebghatollah Mojaddedi.

According to Mojaddedi, the leaders and representatives of the mujahidin factions who attended the Islamabad session were completely unanimous on the contents of the statement.

Commentary Promotes Iran-Pakistan Cooperation

LD3007165291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0951 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Unattribued commentary]

[Text] Pakistan's ministers of finance and economic affairs and petroleum and natural resources are in Tehran for the sixth session of the two countries' joint economic commission. In the session, the two countries' experts have formed specialist committees to explore ways of expanding economic ties and cooperation. Iran-Pakistan ties benefit from a bright and good past. The main development in the relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan occurred in 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] when His Eminence Ayatollah Khamane'i visited Pakistan when he held the post of president. Since that visit, the two countries' joint economic cooperation commission has met regularly in Tehran and Islamabad.

Given the important fact that the two Islamic countries share links with regard to political, economic, cultural, and religious issues, the expansion of economic and commercial ties between the two countries is of particular importance. The volume of exchanges between the two countries was nearly $230 million last year. However, bearing in mind the potential capabilities of the two countries in the fields of oil, heavy industries, railways, and communications, the level of exchanges can expand much further.

Iran and Pakistan are members of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] and the expansion of economic ties between the two countries will lead to the increased activity of ECO in the region. In the same connection, our oil minister's trip [to Pakistan] toward the end of Ordibehesht [month ending 21 May], the understanding achieved in connection with oil exports, and Iran and Pakistan's joint investment of $800 million for the construction of Karachi's Bandar Qasim refinery, with an official capacity of 120,000 barrels per day, which will be provided from Iranian heavy crude oil, speak of the importance of expansion of ties in oil matters.

The Islamic Republic of Iran benefits from a very good position and much experience in the field of oil, and Pakistan can benefit from this. Also, in view of increasing investment by the private sector in Pakistan's economy, the two countries' merchants and industrialists can cooperate toward finding markets and increasing commercial exchanges.

In view of Pakistan's high level of technical knowledge in comparison with other Third World countries, and especially in view of the compatibility of its weaving industries technology with Iran's economy, the expansion of scientific, technical, and economic ties with Pakistan will bring about a transfer of technology to our country.

Bearing in mind that Pakistan is an Islamic country containing the greatest number of supporters of the Islamic revolution, the expansion of all-sided ties with that country can also be justified on political and security grounds.

Iraqi Opposition Claims Hakim Assassin Executed

LD2607225391 Tehran IRNA in English 1140 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, 26 July, IRNA—Iraqi opposition guerrillas have executed Colonel Yasir Rahim Hashimi Chawdri, the assassin of Muhammad Mahdi Hakim, after chasing him for several months, 'Voice of Iraqi Revolution' announced Thursday, without elaboration.

Muhammad Mahdi Hakim, brother of Muhammad Baqir Hakim, leader of the Tehran-based supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, was killed by Iraqi agents in a terrorist attack in Sudan three years ago.

The radio also said the Iraqi regime has hidden its strategic weaponry in Hur al-Hemara, Hur al-Majar and north of the port city of al-Basrah. It also said that Baghdad had not unveiled the locations of all its nuclear, chemical, and biological arms to the visiting U.N. teams.

Clandestine Reports Clash in Divan Darreh

NC3107154191 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Text] According to information received from the party committee in Kordestan's first district, peshmergas of the Zagros force who were moving toward (Daravyan-e Fars) village in (Salar) region in Divan Darreh were informed at 1430 on 23 July that a so-called enemy strike force had been deployed in an abandoned base in the village. Having decided to strike at the antipopular forces, the peshmergas organized themselves into several well-armed groups and took up positions on the heights between (Gozar Darreh) and (Daravyan) villages and on the Shah Neshin heights.

One of the peshmerga units began advancing on (Daravyan-e Fars) village at 1500, and subsequently surrounded it. Shouting long live the Democratic Party, the peshmerga units then opened well-coordinated fire at the enemy positions.

Some of the mercenaries scattered among the village's streets in the hope of escaping the peshmergas' deadly blows, but they became engaged in hand-to-hand combat with them. After resisting futilely for 30 minutes, the antipopular forces finally left the village after suffering several casualties.

The peshmergas then began advancing on the mercenaries stationed at the base, where their close-range fire destroyed several positions. After this force was wiped out, enemy reinforcements arrived on the scene in seven vehicles, and the peshmergas confronted this unit until 1830.

It has been reported that eight of the regime's mercenaries were killed or wounded during the battle, but not all bodies could be approached because of the large area involved. The bodies of two mercenaries were left lying in the village streets, but we cannot give their names as they bore no identification.

The peshmergas, who seized one Kalashnikov, one J-3 gun, 13 rifle loaders, and 400 bullets during the operation, continued their patrols in the area after scoring their triumph.

In a bid to boost its forces' morale, the enemy shelled the area with heavy artillery, mortars, and rockets until 2030, but fortunately there were no casualties.

The Voice of Iranian Kordestan congratulates the brave combatants of the Zagros force and wishes them continued success.

Pakistan

Ruling Alliance Accused of Aggravating Crisis

BK0108051191 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 31 Jul 91 p 12

[Text] Lahore, July 30—Former Prime Minister and PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Co-chairperson Benazir Bhutto has alleged that IJI [Islamic Democratic Alliance] government wants to lose Kashmir and Sindh and to turn Karachi into a "new Hong Kong" with independent status.

She felt that after the separation of Kashmir, Sindh and Karachi, Pakhtoonistan - too would come into existence and Pakistan would exist no longer.

Talking to reporters at the Lahore Airport after arriving from Karachi on Tuesday afternoon, she said that the present rulers had aggravated the crisis in the country after allegedly rigging the 1990 polls massively. Election was rigged on 70 NA [National Assembly] seats, including the seats of incumbent Prime Minister and his brother, she added. She alleged that the present government was involved in political victimisation of opponents, one-sided accountability, torture and intimidation.

She said that this government got Iftikhar Gilani unseated from the NA and announced the election schedule on his seat on the same day. She added that the government also rigged the Senate elections by abducting the MPAs [members of the Provincial Assembly] of PDA [People's Democratic Alliance].

She alleged that this government had completely rendered the economy bankrupt, and as a result, the country was faced with an unprecedented price hike. She said that the price hike was reaching such a level where the common man would be unable to buy sugar, flour and pulses.

She alleged that the IJI government was absolutely incapable, incompetent and was leading the country towards complete disaster.

She claimed that this government had enforced a civilian martial law in the country and it would not be accepted by the PDA. For this reason, she added, the PDA was going on a hunger strike. She said that the PDA had offered its cooperation to the present government on the conditions of reinstating ousted government enmployees, stoppage of denationalisation of industry and banks, restoration of the rights of peasants and workers and non-interference in Azad Kashmir affairs.

But, instead, the government she alleged, not only interfered into AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] out played the same role as Jag Mohan had played in occupied Kashmir. She alleged that Prime Minister was not serious towards his duties and was busy shooting balloons in Murree at a time when dacoits [Robbers] were shooting people in his constituency. She claimed that at present the PDA and all opposition parties were agreed on the extent of rigging in 1990 elections and demanded fresh polls.

Regarding the demand of national government made by certain politicians she said that there was no difference between the agenda of a national government and a caretaker government, as both were to hold fresh elections. Commenting on the proposed law aimed at curbing free press, she said that the present government was afraid of free press because it was the product of rigging. She said that free press was the conscience of a nation and the present rulers wanted to deprive the nation of its conscience.

She recalled that 2 section of the same press had been publishing unfounded stories against her during her government, but she had never thought of curbing the press freedom for a moment.

The PPP leader suggested to the journalists and newspaper owners to observe a strike against the proposed "black law" against freedom of expression.

Amendments Planned To Accord With Islamic Law

BK0108145091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1300 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] The government has decided to amend a number of laws to bring them in conformity with the decisions of the Federal Shariat [Islamic Law] Court and meet the present-day needs of the country. This was stated by the minister of state for law, justice, and parliamentary affairs, Chaurdhary Amir Hussain, in an interview in Islamabad today. He said the relevant law providing punishment for derogatory remarks against the holy prophet, peace be upon him, will now only provide for death sentence to the offenders. The alternative punishment, such as the imprisonment for life, would be done away with it. The minister of state said the decision to amend the law was taken by the Federal Cabinet at its meeting on Monday in accordance with the verdict of the Federal Shariat Court.